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RECORDS OF THE
HOLE CRAFT AND FELLOWSHIP
OF
MASONS

With a Chronicle of the History of the Worshipful
Company of Masons of the City of London

*Collected from Official Records in the possession of the Company, the
Manuscripts in the British Museum, the Public Record
Office, the Guildhall Library, etc., etc.*

BY
EDWARD CONDER JUNIOR
Master of the Masons Company this present year



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Pres. by W. Laver Esq

1932

PROEM

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF ASSISTANTS AND FREEMEN OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

GENTLEMEN,—

In placing before you the result of my investigations concerning the history and antiquity of the Masons Company, I feel a few words are necessary to explain the delay in its production. My original intention was to compile a pamphlet of some twenty or thirty pages, concerning the history of our gild from its incorporation by Charles II. to the present day, founded on the minutes of the Court which are preserved in manuscript in the Company's chest.

On investigating the subject, I found that although the Masons' Gild is one of extreme interest and great antiquity, no attempt to write its history has been made. Being the fountain head of that vast society known as The Free and Accepted Masons, it had to some extent attracted the attention of many masonic writers. Indeed, the bibliography of the "craft" is a very large subject, and probably comprises some 8,000 or 10,000 works by English, German, French, and American writers.

This fact of itself was sufficient to make me give up the idea of a short pamphlet, and devote myself at once to making the acquaintance of much that had already been written on the subject, with the view of extracting undoubted facts from a great deal of *hypothetical tradition*. Then again, the public libraries, after some careful search, yielded a number of important documents, which at once placed many points in the early history of the Company beyond all dispute.

By the kindness of the Court of Assistants I have been allowed to peruse the numerous books of the Company at leisure in my own study. Thus I have been able to bring to light many interesting facts in the history of the Company that in a superficial examination might easily have been overlooked. I here refer to those *few* but important entries which conclusively prove the existence of a dual condition in the Company so early as 1620, and inferentially in the earliest times. These notes I have arranged in the form of a chronicle rather than a history of the Company, as it has been my object to give extracts from the documents themselves rather than descriptive padding of doubtful authority. The fact that the earliest history of the Mason's craft is buried in the remotest antiquity, made it necessary for me to sketch in outline the rise and progress of masonry from the earliest time down to the twelfth century, and the very curious secret brotherhood that existed among the mediæval masons has enabled me to compile much that is of interest to the student of *operative* masonry from works that have been written from the *speculative* point of view.

I cannot but give my best thanks for the kind interest taken in

this work by numerous friends, and particularly so by a quartette of mutual friends, Messrs. Rylands, Gould, Speth, and Hughan.

To Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., I am indebted for making many sketches and tracings from maps and documents, and generally assisting me with regard to the illustrations given in these pages, besides much advice on many important points.

To Mr. R. F. Gould, the English historian of Speculative Masonry, my thanks are due for his ever-ready assistance in making clear obscure portions in the history of the craft, throwing much light on the early aspect of the Gild.


To Mr. G. W. Speth, on whose shoulders rests the important work carried on by the members of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Freemasons, my thanks are due for the care and labour he has bestowed on reading the proof sheets of this book, and making many valuable suggestions.

To Mr. W. J. Hughan, the well-known masonic writer, I am indebted for a complete list of the old Gild MS. Constitutions, and many notes on that subject.

And lastly, I wish to acknowledge the courtesy of the Clerk of the Company, Mr. R. L. Hunter, in giving me every assistance in his power during my search for papers and other MSS. in his custody.

EDWARD CONDER, JUN.

CHADLINGTON, OXON, 1894.



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The Hole Craft and Fellowship of Masons



INTRODUCTION

MASONRY, OR FREEMASONRY

THE Worshipful Company of Masons of the City of London enjoys, besides the interest attached to it on account of its antiquity and continuity, the peculiar distinction, above all other gilds, of being one of the principal connecting links in that chain of evidence which proves that the modern social cult, known as the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, is lineally descended from the old Fraternity of Masons which flourished in the early days of monastic architecture, now known by the inappropriate title of Gothic.

The history of this Company will I think conclusively prove that the traditions and moral teachings of the old Fellowship, which undoubtedly existed in Britain in the 12th and 13th centuries, were preserved by the Masons Company of London, after the downfall of the Church, in 1530, until the middle of the 17th century—at which period non-operative masons and others carried on the old Society with considerable energy, their participation culminating, in 1717, in the establishment of a Grand Lodge, and the subsequent rapid formation of Lodges in all parts of the country.

I will not venture to assert that the Masons Company of

London was the only channel by which the old constitutions of the middle ages reached the speculative masons of 1700. Yet, so far as London is concerned, it forms the ONLY DEMONSTRABLE SOURCE ; and, as far as we know, it is *only* in connection with this company that any mention is made of speculative masonry, as existing in London during the 17th century, or, in fact, of any society of citizens meeting together for the purpose of fostering symbolical masonry.

We know from old documents yet existing, which will be alluded to in the course of the following pages, that the mediæval masons had a peculiar and curious tradition as to their origin, and the invention of geometry—the science which so extensively entered into the exercise of their craft. This tradition was, without doubt, largely due to the clerical influence exercised over their calling.

It will be evident, on reflection, that as the masons' art was, from the earliest dawn of civilization, connected with raising temples to the Deity, so must the artizans have always been in close contact with the priests, as well as the lower orders of religious establishments.

This fact of itself is sufficient to account for the semi-religious body which the masons at length became, as also for the moral teaching and curious traditions of the Fraternity, derived to a great extent from the sacred books of the Early Church, and from legendary history. Undoubtedly such was the fact, and it is therefore without surprise that about the end of the 14th, or early in the 15th century, we find a document,¹ evidently founded on a much earlier one (or on remote oral traditions), which recites the supposed history of the Fellowship of Masons, and lays down rules for the guidance of its members ; at the same time inculcating a behaviour and conduct, which, if not a gratuitous insertion, is, as regards ordinary

¹ Brit. Mus., *Bib. Reg.* 17 A1. Known to the Craft as the Halliwell or Regius MS.

workmen, greatly in advance of the spirit of the time,¹ and far beyond that practised by the other trades. No doubt this was to support the craft in maintaining its ancient worthy position, and in order that its members might continue to hold their ancient and honourable station.

As the beauty of the so-called Gothic architecture advanced under the wing of the Church, schools of masonry, wherein the elements of Euclid were taught to the higher class of operative masons, became attached to certain religious houses, and from time to time efficient workmen left these schools for work further afield.

It was not unusual in many trades for workmen to be provided with tokens or passes from one master to another; but it was customary among the masons, who having served their apprenticeship had become free of the Gild or Company, or in other words, free masons, to use as well certain secret signs and passwords to ensure their being employed by the foreman of any body of masons where and whenever they applied for work.

These signs and passwords have often been remarked upon, particularly by Dr. Plot, the historian, John Aubrey, Randle Holme, the herald, and Christopher Wren.

That they were secrets, we learn from a MS. note² written by Randle Holme, about 1650, to this effect.

"There is seu'all words and signes of a free Mason to be revalled to yⁿ w^{ch} as yⁿ will answ: before God at the Great & terrible day of Judgm^t yⁿ keep secret & not revaile the same to any in the heares of any pson w but to the M^{rs} & Fellows of the said Society of free Masons so helpe me God, &c."

Dr. Plot, writing in 1686, mentions the Society of Freemasons

¹ Gould has written a commentary on this poem, and draws attention to these unusual requirements of personal nicety.

² This MS. note is found on a scrap of paper bound up with Holme's MS. of the Constitutions of the Masons. Brit. Mus., *Harl. MS.*, 2054. Written *circa* 1640-50, according to Mr. Bond, late chief librarian of the British Museum.

as then existing in Staffordshire, and throughout the kingdom. After speaking of their old traditional history and constitutions, written on a "Schrole or Parchment volum," he says :—

"They proceed to the admission of them, which chiefly consists in the communication of certain secret signs whereby they are known to one another all over the nation, by which means they have maintenance wither ever they travel ; for if any man appear, though altogether unknown, that can shew any of these *signes* to a *Fellow* of the Society, whom they otherwise call an *accepted Mason*, he is obliged presently to come to him, from what company or place soever he be in, nay, though from the top of a steeple.¹

Elias Ashmole mentions the Fraternity in his Diary,² when writing in 1646. He notes, October 16th :—

"4.30 p.m. I was made a Freemason at Warrington, in Lancashire, with Colonel Henry Mainwaring, of Karincham, in Cheshire."

He then mentions other members of the Lodge who were present, all of whom were men of position and not in any way connected with the building trade.³ When Ashmole again mentions Freemasons, it is curiously enough the historical meeting of a Lodge held at the Masons' Hall, Basinghall Street, London, in 1682, March 11th, on which occasion the Master of the Masons Company, his warden, and several members of the Court, are named by Ashmole as being present ; and he further goes on to say that,—

"We all dynd at the Half Moon Tavern in Cheapside, at the charge of the New-Accepted Masons."

John Aubrey, the author of *The Natural History of Wiltshire*, next claims our attention, chiefly from the fact that he is one of the

¹ *The Natural History of Staffordshire*, by Robert Plot, LL.D. London, 1686. The copy in the British Museum has extra notes by Plot, in MS.

² *Memoirs of the Life of Elias Ashmole, Esqre., drawn up by himself by way of a diary*. London, 1717. Reprinted by Burman, Lond., 1774.

³ Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., has carefully traced the names mentioned, and proves that the Lodge was in no way operative, the members being of other occupations.

few authorities quoted when an endeavour is made to prove that Sir Christopher Wren was a member of the Fraternity.

In the Bodleian Library, Oxford, there is the MS. of Aubrey's History, dated 1686, and on the reverse of folio 72 of this MS. is the following note in Aubrey's handwriting :—

1691

after Rogation Sunday

Mdm this day [May the 18th being Monday] is a great convention at St

accepted

Pauls Church of the fraternity, of the ~~free~~ Masons; where Sir Christopher Wren is to be adopted a Brother: and Sir Henry Goodric . . . of y^e Tower and divers others— There have been kings that have been of this Sodalitie.

In this case Aubrey has himself erased the word *free*, and substituted *accepted*, to denote the Speculative Masons.

Sir Christopher Wren, unfortunately, has left nothing in writing respecting his connection with the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, which in his day undoubtedly held a Lodge at the Masons' Hall.

His son Christopher, however, compiled a Memoir of the family of Wren, which was published in 1750.¹

In this work the Society of Free and Accepted Masons is twice alluded to. On p. 306 occurs the opinion held by Sir Christopher Wren, concerning the origin of the Fraternity and the dubious statement that certain Papal Bulls were conferred upon them by way of encouragement. This will be dealt with on a future page.

The other notice, which at the present moment is of greater interest, occurs on page 292. After describing certain details as to the rebuilding of St. Paul's, we are told that,—

“The highest, or last stone on the top of the lantern, was laid by the hands of the surveyor's son, Christopher Wren, deputed by his father, in the

¹ *Parentalia: or, Memoirs of the Family of Wrens, by Christopher Wren.* London, 1750. Folio: published by Joseph Ames.

presence of that excelent Artificer, Mr. Strong, his son, and other Free and Accepted Masons, chiefly employed in the execution of the work.”¹

From the above extracts we are logically enabled to state the following facts :—

First, that at the time of Ashmole (in 1646), a Society of Free and Accepted Masons existed in Warrington, in Lancashire. Also that in 1650 Randle Holme, the herald, was a member of the Society in Cheshire, and testifies to the fact that there were certain words and signs which were kept a strict secret, and only known to the initiated.

Further, we have the testimony of Dr. Plot in 1686, who mentions the Society in his *History of Staffordshire*,² and speaking of a Fellow of the Society, says : “Whom they otherwise call an Accepted Mason” ; and lastly, we have the note on the MS. in the Bodleian Library, written by John Aubrey in 1691, where he erases the word “free” and substitutes “accepted” to denote the Society into which he heard Sir Christopher Wren was to be adopted. This statement is augmented by the recorded ceremony of laying the top stone of St. Paul’s by Sir Christopher’s son, assisted by Mr. Strong and other Free and Accepted Masons.

After digesting these excerpts, we can come to only *one* conclusion regarding the words Accepted or Accepted Free Masons ; and *it is this* :—

At this date, and extending from the early days of architectural development, there was a peculiar esoteric division in the communities of masons, which at times admitted persons, in no way

¹ The family memoirs of the Stronges (1716) state that Thomas Strong laid the foundation-stone of St. Paul’s with his own hand ; and that his brother Edward’s son, Edward the younger, “began the Lanthorn on the Dome of St. Paul’s, London, about the year 1706, and on the 25th October, 1708, Edward Strong, senior, laid the last stone upon the same.” This claim, that Edward the elder laid the cape-stone, is re-asserted on his monument in St. Peter’s Church, St. Albans, of which a copy will be found on a later page.

² Plot undoubtedly saw an old copy of the MS. *Constitutions, or Masons’ Legend*, and the word accepted was evidently used to denote initiated at that date.

operatively connected with their craft, into fellowship with them when they met for the purposes of speculative masonry, and these persons who were so admitted were termed Accepted Masons, perhaps at first to distinguish them from the Operative or Free-Mason.

But as time went on the two words became synonymous, and at length were used conjointly to distinguish the strictly speculative from the operative masons.

Having obtained this evidence as to the value and intention of the words "Accepted Mason," it will now be my purpose to show in what way the London Company of Masons was connected with the Society of Free and Accepted or Speculative Masons. The entry in the diary of Ashmole, which records his visit to the Lodge held at Masons' Hall in 1682, is of considerable importance. This evidence of itself is proof of the dual condition of the Company at that date, *i.e.* that it contained two divisions, one speculative and the other operative.

To make this important fact quite clear, it will be necessary to show that long before this date, if not from the very beginning, the Company numbered among its members some who met together from time to time to keep alive that esoteric part of the craft which has always been peculiar to the Initiated or Accepted Masons. As early as the year 1620, or *twenty-one years before any mention* of the Society is made by any writers of the 17th century, we find in the first year entered in the account book, which is the earliest document concerning the Guild that remains in the Company's possession, an entry referring to certain gratuities received from new members in consequence of their being *accepted* on the livery.

In the following year occur entries of certain payments made by these new members when they were *made* masons, doubtless by some ancient ceremony that had survived the troublous period of the Reformation.

In 1631 occurs the following notice concerning such members :—

the *Accepted Masons* enclosed in a "faire frame, with a lock and key." Why was this? No doubt the Accepted Members, or those who were initiated into the esoteric aspect of the Company, did not include the *whole* Company, and this was a list of the "enlightened ones," whose names were thus honoured and kept on record, probably long after their decease. Indeed, this list may have contained many great names, such as Ashmole, Inigo Jones, and others, who tradition avers were Accepted Masons, although we have no records to prove it.

This we cannot say for certain, but we can say that as early as 1620, and inferentially very much earlier, there were certain members of the Masons Company and others who met from time to time to form a Lodge for the purposes of Speculative Masonry; and this account given by the records of the Masons Company concerning its "accepted members," is without doubt the EARLIEST AUTHENTIC EVIDENCE of 17th century Freemasonry in England.

In the same inventory occurs a MS. copy of the Old Charges, or Gothic Constitutions, as they have been called. This MS. contained one of the versions of the Masons Gild Tradition, which we find first given in the old document before mentioned in the British Museum, known to the Craft as the Halliwell Poem, or Regius MS.

This copy of the constitutions is included in all the inventories down to 1722, and it was known as *The Book of the Constitutions of the Accepted Masons*. Here again we note the word "accepted," to show that it was an entirely different document from the other book, also in the deed box, and mentioned in the inventory as the *Constitutions of the Masons Company given them in the Mayoralty of John Brown*, A.D. 1481.

The old MS. copy of the Charges of the Accepted Members, if I may so term them, is unfortunately no longer in the Company's chest, and we can only guess as to which particular text of the legendary History it contained.

There are, at the time of writing, between sixty and seventy

manuscript copies of the Constitutions of Masonry in existence,¹ dating from the end of the 14th or early 15th century down to the beginning of the present century.

Curiously enough, on several MS. copies the Arms of the Masons Company is emblazoned, sometimes accompanied by the Arms of the City of London, as in the case of the Antiquity and the Colonel Clerke MSS., both dated 1686.

In other cases of a later date we find the Arms placed at the head of a MS. copy, together with the Arms of some noble family who was connected with the Lodge to which that particular copy of the Constitutions belonged.

Again, other MS. copies contain a rough sketch of the Masons' Arms alone, pointing to the fact that the Masons Company was possibly looked upon by the Society of Free and Accepted Masons as the representative body of the Mediæval Fellowship, from which they claimed descent in common.

Unfortunately nearly all the texts of the MS. copies of the Constitutions differ slightly, and particularly so in the case of those which bear the Masons' Arms as a heading; consequently we cannot place our hand on any one of them and say, *this is the original*, or *copy* of the original, that was for so many generations the property of the Masons Company.

There is, however, one version² of the Gild Legend that stands apart from the rest when we endeavour to find a parallel to the lost MS. which belonged to the Masons Company; it is valued chiefly on account of certain new articles that it contains, and in this respect it is almost unique, only two other copies containing them.³

Among these new clauses, all of which treat of orders connected with the Accepted Masons, there is one which claims our attention

¹ See complete list on a future page.

² Harleian MS., 1942. Brit. Mus.

³ The Grand Lodge, No. 2 MS. Roll, and the "Roberts" (printed version, 1722).

on account of the singular resemblance it bears to the rules that govern the Masons Company. It is as follows :—

Article 30.

That for the future the sayd Society, Company, and Fraternity of Free Masons, shalbee regulated and governed by one Master, an Assembly, and Wardens as ye said Company shall think fit to chose at every yearly Assembly.

Here we have the government of the Masons Company reproduced for the management of the Society. Master, Wardens, and Assembly is merely substituted for Master, Wardens, and Assistants. Surely the one must have had some bearing on the other !

Further, we find that from 1600 to 1700 it was customary for many members, who could not write, to sign their names by means of a mark, the marks employed in this instance being the kind known as Masons' marks. They are curious hieroglyphics, easily distinguished from ordinary trade marks, and were used to denote the work of individual craftsmen, from the time of Pharaoh down to to-day. They have been the inheritance of the working mason. The marks found in the books are examples of what we know as the hour-glass, the arrow, the figure four, and the square and compasses.

The Grant of Arms¹ more than all claims our attention, being the foundation upon which the armorial bearings assumed by *all* subsequent corporations connected with masonry, whether speculative or operative, such as the Masons Gild or Company at Chester, Gateshead, Oxford, Edinburgh, and elsewhere have been based.

In the original of 1472 the chevron is engrailed, but at the beginning of the 17th century we find a plain chevron taking its place. This may have been due to one or two causes. First, the authority whence Stow obtained the blazon, given in his *Survey* of 1633, may, have been a poor one, and a rough description sufficed

¹ A facsimile of this grant appears as a frontispiece to the present volume.

for him; consequently, in later editions, as well as in other authors' works, *his* mistake was continued. Secondly, the adoption of a plain chevron in place of an engrailed one may be due to the fact that certain of the more speculative members preferred to have in their Arms a direct allusion to the square, and so voluntarily changed the blazon. This is simply a matter of conjecture. Certain it is that from the time of Stow down to the present date, with one or two rare exceptions, the plain chevron takes the place of the engrailed.

The Motto¹ is of greater consequence to us. In the grant, as in other similar documents, there is no mention made of one, and the earliest notice of it yet discovered is on the tomb of William Kerwin, in the Church of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate, London. It there appears as

GOD IS OVR GVIDE.

The first verse of the Gospel according to St. John,
 “ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος,² καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος,”
 has always appealed to the speculative mason, as also the first chapter of Genesis, and it is quite likely that the Hebrew word יְהוָה (Jehovah)³ had some bearing on its adoption by the Tudor masons, if, indeed, we are not indebted to immemorial use for it.

The Masonic student will doubtless see the point of this argument.

Then, again, we cannot overlook the fact that at first the Company was known as the Fellowship of Masons, and it was to

¹ The Company has no authorised motto, but appears to have used since the early part of the 17th century, “In the Lord is all our trust,” founded on an earlier one. In all probability, that which is given on Kerwin's tomb in St. Helen's Church.

² The earliest known seal of the Grand Lodge of Accepted Masons bears the first portion of this text.

³ The Jews, with a deep reverence for the name of the Deity, never pronounce the word יְהוָה (Jehovah), but use the word אֱלֹהִים (ēlohim) God, or אֲדֹנָי (adonai) Lord. There is much here for the thoughtful reader to contemplate with reference to the motto of the Company.

this Fellowship that the grant of arms was made in 1472. But about 1530 it changed its title to the Company of Freemasons. This was about the time when the Masons' Fraternities, which were connected with the religious houses, fell with them into a state of collapse by the action of the reformers. From this date the Company continued to use the title of "ffreemasons," down to 1653, when the prefix "free" was dropped. From this date the Company is simply known as that of the Masons. This is curious, as the period embraced was the Dark Ages, so to speak, of symbolical masonry, which soon after 1653 showed signs of revival. No doubt, about the same time, the speculative element, which had for so long taken refuge in the safe haven of the Company, adventured on a new course, and possibly soon afterwards several Lodges were formed, still under the wing, so to speak, of the Company, and holding their meetings at the Masons' Hall, which was still probably looked upon as the only headquarters of the craft in London.

This esoteric portion finally left the Company soon after Ashmole's visit in 1682, and it is to my mind an open question, whether the Lodge of Antiquity in London, which has existed for over two hundred years, does not owe its origin to the Masons' Hall Lodge.

Having headed this Introduction, "Masonry or Freemasonry," I cannot conclude without saying *emphatically* that, in my opinion, the Company of Masons of the city of London, in its early days, practised, and was acquainted with, ALL the traditions and moral teachings of the Fraternity, and that when the monastic gilds fell into chaos, the London Company of Masons preserved the ancient traditions of the Gild, and amongst its documents a copy¹ of those

¹ Sir Francis Palgrave, writing in the *Edinburgh Review*, in April, 1839, maintains that "the connexion between the operative masons and a convivial society of good fellows—who in the reign of Queen Anne met at the Goose and Gridiron in 'St. Paul his Church'-yard—appears to have been finally dissolved about the beginning of the eighteenth century. From an inventory of the contents of the chest of the Worshipful Company of Masons and citizens of London, it appears not long since to have

MS. Traditions, with the object of keeping the old order of things alive ; and thus assisted in handing them down to the 17th century Society of Free and Accepted Masons, which revived the old order some time between 1680 and 1700 ; but here I leave it. The one thing certain is that, up to about 1700, the Company and the Society were hand in hand, but *after* that date the connexion appears to have ended, and there is nothing to show that speculative masonry had a place in the thoughts of the members of the Company.

contained a book wrote on parchment, and bound or stitched in parchment, containing 113 annals of the antiquity, rise, and progress of the art and mystery of Masonry. But this document is not now to be found."

PART I

“The Whole Craft”

EARLY MASONRY

THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF MASONRY FROM EARLY TIMES TO ITS INTRODUCTION INTO BRITAIN UNDER CLAUDIUS, A.D. 43

MASONRY, we are told,¹ is the science of preparing and combining stones so as to touch, indent, or lie on each other, and become masses of walling and arching for the purposes of building.

The period at which wrought stone was originally used for architectural purposes is quite unknown, as is that in which cement of any kind was first employed as the medium of uniting masonry. Egypt, Chaldea, Phœnicia, India, and China are the first countries on record in which masonry worthy the name made its appearance.

Egypt. That Egypt was the cradle of the civilisation we now enjoy, has long been considered beyond a doubt,² and if in the early days of that civilisation we question the existence of the craft, we have only to look to the gigantic remains³ of its architectural buildings to find abundant proof that masonry was thoroughly understood, and in a very advanced state.

At the dawn of her history, some five or six thousand years ago,⁴ Egypt had her masons executing work at the Pyramids in a manner not to be surpassed by modern craftsmen; and to gain some

¹ *Gwill's Architecture.*

² Laing. *Human Origins.* London, 1892.

³ The writings of Brugsch, Mariette, and other Egyptologists give valuable descriptions of the high state of masonry at a very early date in Egypt.

⁴ I quote Brugsch as the authority for the dates given.

idea of their skill, we have only to visit these huge structures to see at a glance the marvellous results they achieved.

Let us, for example, take the Great Pyramid of Cheops, or Khufu, a king of the Fourth Dynasty, who ruled *circa* B.C. 3,700. This enormous mass of masonry has so often been described by Egyptologists,¹ that I will only here mention a few points of interest, which prove the above statement.

It was erected, we are told,² by an army of labourers under the direction of skilled masons ; its cubic contents exceeded eighty-nine



MASONS (*Wilkinson*).

million feet, and its weight is calculated as nearly seven millions of tons ; Herodotus³ says that its construction required the continuous labour of a hundred thousand men for the space of twenty years. From modern calculation this estimate is not regarded as an exaggeration.

The Great Pyramid presents many marvels to us besides its size : first, there is the massiveness of the blocks of which it is built ; some of these stones are 30 ft. long by 5 ft. high by 4 ft. wide, containing

¹ Wilkinson, Rawlinson, etc., etc.

² *Herodotus*, II., c. 125.

³ Rawlinson's *Herodotus*.

six or seven hundred cubic feet, and weighing some five-and-forty tons.

These monoliths were quarried about one hundred and thirty-eight miles from the works, brought over a specially prepared highway of masonry, and fitted together on the spot where we now find them. The work of the operative mason¹ must have been enormous; for they not only squared these immense blocks, but gave their sides such perfect tooling, that they could be built in one with another without any cement; and at the present day it is almost impossible to insert the blade of a knife at the joints.

That the Master Mason of Egypt was a person of distinction goes without saying; his importance is shown by the statue to one holding this high office in the craft, now at Berlin. This is the statue to one Semut, chief of the Masons under Queen Hatasu,² daughter of Thothmes I.

¹ In the collection of artizan's tools used by the ancient Egyptians, at the British Museum, Case F, we notice that the masons used bronze chisels, wooden mallets, and stone polishers.

In 1883 Lord Clanmorris presented to the Bangor Union Masonic Lodge, an Egyptian Mason's mallet which he had received from the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava. The following letter tells the history of the find.

The letter is as follows:—

CLANDEBOYE, *September 3rd*, 1883.

MY DEAR CLANMORRIS,—At last I have found the mallet, which I have much pleasure in sending you. Its great merit is its genuineness. On that you may rely, for I myself dug it out of a Temple tomb erected by King Mentu-Hotep of the 11th Dynasty, a personage who certainly flourished before Moses. The mallet was buried beneath the sand and ruins with a number of other articles of the same date. Its handle still shines with the sweat of the old Egyptian masons, and I have great pleasure in presenting it to your honourable Lodge.

Yours sincerely,

DUFFERIN.

The above is extracted from the *Transactions of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati*, vol. iii. p. 185.

² A sculptured head of this Queen may be seen in the British Museum, Egyptian Room, c. 52. Also a throne, supposed to be hers, which is probably the most ancient piece of furniture in the world, having been made before the birth of Moses.

This Queen was a great builder of Temples, and honoured the masons by causing the statue of Semut to be erected after his death.

In this inscription he is described as "First of the First, and Master of the Works of all Masters of the Works." On the shoulder of the statue, is inscribed the following: "Nen kem em an apu," *i.e.* "his ancestors were not found in writing," or, "he had no genealogical tree," showing clearly that it was in honour of his skill as a mason, and not for his family descent, that the statue was erected;¹



SEMUT, B.C. 1600.
Master Mason to Queen Hatasu, XVIII. Dynasty.
(From Lepsius, *Denkmäler*.)

just as Christopher Wren required no descriptive inscription on his tomb in St. Paul's.

Probable
Origin of the
Mason's
Secret Signs.

It may be noticed that in no country was the connection between religion and architecture closer than in Egypt; the priests of Isis² were the law-givers, astrono-

¹ Brugsch. *History of Egypt under the Pharaohs*, (1881), vol. i., p. 350.

² An old idea was that the priests connected with the different religious mysteries

mers, and architects of the time ; and with their rites unchangeable, and a mystic authority prevailing over all their ceremonies and outward forms, it is more than probable that at this early age, masonry received its baptism in that secret sign language which, during the Gothic age of architecture, was made use of by all masons when travelling from place to place in search of employment ;¹ and which to-day plays such an important part in speculative masonry.²

From Egypt the school of Masonry passed into Phœnicia and Greece.

In Phœnicia we have early mention made by Moses, in the Hebrew Bible,³ of the cities being strongholds, and walled in ; and much later we find Solomon applying to Hiram of Tyre for assistance in building the Temple at Jerusalem,⁴ doubtless by reason of the absence of the useful arts among the Israelites.

Rawlinson, in his history of Phœnicia,⁵ says : “ The Jerusalem. Phœnicians had long been in a high state of civilisation, and had for ages⁶ possessed stone buildings, the mason’s art having been brought in very early days from Egypt.” Consequently a large number of stone-masons were easily sent to Jerusalem at the time of building the Temple ; and it is an interesting fact that in the survey of Palestine,⁷ Sir C. Warren found on the foundation stones, at

of the ancients, were to a certain extent acquainted with the origin of *True* religion, but loaded their ceremonies with allegories and symbols, of which the meaning was known only to the initiated, in order to keep the multitude in ignorance, and thereby preserve that control and superiority over them, which they so long and so eminently maintained.

¹ All the early traditions of Masonry, in the 14th and 15th centuries, or Guild Legends point to Egypt as the birthplace of their craft.

² I refer here to what in the nineteenth century is known as “ Free Masonry,” and which has been defined as a system of morality veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.

³ Num. xiii. 19, 28.

⁴ 1 Kings v.

⁵ *Story of the Nations Series*.

⁶ An Egyptian papyrus mentions Tyre as a city B.C. 1400.

⁷ *Palestine Explor. Fund*, Quarterly Statement, and *Ars. Quat. Coronat.*, vol. ii., 1889, p. 125 ; vol. iii., 1890, p. 68.

the site of the Temple, certain masons' marks¹ that are undoubtedly letters of the Phœnician alphabet, proving the Biblical statement concerning its Phœnician origin. This masonic portion of Scripture was, as we shall see, grafted on to that secret sign language originally started in Egypt; constituting a large part of what, in mediæval times, was known as the *Constitutions* of the "Society of Masons."²

Grecian
Masonry.

Greece also received the mason's art from Egypt, for although Cyclopean or Pelasgic masonry is found at Mycenæ and Tiryns,³ yet the architecture which produced the Acropolis and the finer forms of Greek Masonry owed its origin to the same source as that of Phœnicia; and if we endeavour to find the earliest example of the Doric column, it is to Egypt that we must turn and visit the tombs at Beni Hassan (see Gwilt's *Architecture*).

Wilkinson was of the opinion that the date of their erection was B.C. 1740, which is an antiquity that cannot be assigned to Greece; nevertheless, the improvement in architecture made by the Greek masons is attested by the writings of contemporary authors⁴ whose descriptions and the existing ruins of such magnificent buildings as the Temple of Diana at Ephesus, the Acropolis⁵ at Athens, and many others of equal beauty, prove that there is little left for the 19th century mason to be proud of!

The Italian
Style.

As to the Romans, they can scarcely be said to have had an original architectural style. They received their early instruction in masonry from the Etruscans who are supposed to have been part of an Eastern stock which made a settlement in Italy. These Etruscans were perhaps a portion of that swarm of Orientals, which in pre-historic times must have swept over Europe, bringing

¹ The Masons' marks will be dealt with on a future occasion.

² A copy of these constitutions was formerly in the chest of the Masons' Company (see post).

³ *Vide* Pausanias, Ed. Sylburg.

⁴ Pausanias, Arcad., c. 45, Herodotus and others.

⁵ In the Elgin Room at the British Museum may be seen a restored view of the Athenian Acropolis, as well as many fine marbles brought from the Parthenon, particularly the frieze of that noted temple, built *circa* B.C. 450.


with them the curious mythology and customs common to the East, and still found to-day in the folk-lore of the peasants of Europe. It is to them, perhaps, we owe that custom of raising huge stones in circles, etc., the purpose of which is still a bone of contention among savants. I allude here to Stonehenge, Avebury, and other remains in Britain, and similar ones, including cromlechs,¹ found in Ireland, France, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and almost all European countries, as well as in the East.

That Rome copied the Greek form of building is evident ; but the pure style of classical architecture, perfected by the Greeks, underwent several modifications at the hands of the Romans, its character being materially changed.

Early Symbolism. About this period, Pythagoras,² the Greek philosopher, having spent twenty years in Egypt, returned to Greece, and in consequence of his political views retired to Crotonia in South Italy, where he opened a school of philosophy, called the Pythagorean Fraternity. The old wisdom of Egypt was thus transplanted into the centre of Europe, and thence, by the aid of Christian influence, it spread over the whole continent. Many of its tenets were transmitted by the masons, who, we shall find, travelled from one district to another in search of employment, and instructed their apprentices in the symbolical philosophy taught to them by the early Christians, which came in time to be looked upon as part of

¹ According to Jewitt, cromlechs are nothing more than sepulchral chambers, denuded of the earth mound with which they were originally covered. Vide *Grave Mounds: their Contents*, by Llewellynn Jewitt, F.S.A. Lond., 1870.

² Pythagoras was born at Samos 540 B.C., and at an early age left his country for Egypt, where he gained the confidence of the priests, and became initiated in their mysteries and symbolical writings, particularly that of the immortality of the soul. Moses doubtless received much of his learning from the priests of the Egyptian mysteries, who kept the knowledge of the one true God (Ra) a secret from the people, and, in order to keep them in subjection, instituted a vast system of mythology that was far beyond the compass of the ordinary lay mind ; but to those who passed through a long series of initiation and probation, they ultimately entrusted the great truth of the Eternal God.

the trade secrets. Some of the more important of the symbols were the triangle, representing the Deity of the Ancients; the Square, an emblem of morality; the Tetractys, a sacred emblem expressed by ten "yods" , , , , , , , , , , ; the cube; the point within the circle , a symbol of considerable antiquity, representing the Universe, the point being the contemplator surrounded by the horizon; the triple triangle; and the 47th proposition of the first Book of Euclid, which was perhaps the most important part of all the Pythagorean teaching.

The use of the arch¹ draws a strong line between the architecture of Rome and that of Greece; the distinctive character of the latter being the horizontal entablature supported by columns. These columns the Romans appropriated, but used them to support the arch instead.

Roman
Luxury.

That the Roman builders attained at length to great efficiency is shown by the ruins of their edifices scattered all over that enormous area which constituted the Roman Empire.

At Rome itself the style of building was very magnificent. Besides porticos and galleries of extraordinary extent and superb architecture, there were arched and lofty saloons, supported by columns of the most rare marble, the walls adorned with valuable painting and gilt ornament; the basins of their baths of fine marble; the cement of their reservoirs so hard as to almost resist iron;² and their pavements of glass and marble chips laid in a beautiful mosaic. When we remember these facts, there should be little surprise that the writings of one of their architects, Vitruvius, should be in the 19th century one of the leading works of the mason's craft: although if the modern architect should wish to become a disciple of Vitruvius, he must, besides being able to design a building, make

¹ The fundamental principle of the arch was known at a very early date in Assyria, one of the most ancient examples remaining is that of a channel under the north-western Palace at Nimrud. Vide *Hist. of Ancient Art*, Von Reber, 1883.

² Fosbroke's *Encyclopædia of Antiquities*, vol. i. c. iv.

himself acquainted with astronomy,¹ physics, music, and be thoroughly proficient in mathematics and geometry.²

The Romans were a most practical people, and in order to maintain their arts in a progressive state, they devised institutions to foster and protect the various crafts. These institutions were called the Collegia,³ the masons being included in the Collegia Fabrorum.

The college or society was governed by a Magister and Decuriones, or a master and wardens, the other members being termed sodales, or companions.

The Roman Collegia have been supposed to be the parent body from which our mediæval trade gilds derived their origin.⁴

With the Roman Conquest of Britain we may fairly begin the history of masonry in England.

EARLY MASONRY IN ENGLAND

Very little is known of the history of the Roman Province of Britain, but there is no doubt that great progress was made in the civilisation of the country.

When Julius Cæsar arrived, B.C. 55, he found the Britons entirely uninformed of the very rudest form of architecture, although there is evidence in existing remains⁵ that, at some very early time, huge

¹ *Vitruvius*, book i. c. i.

² The "Society of Masons" in the 14th century required the Master Mason to be acquainted with the seven liberal sciences.

³ Smith, *Dictionary of Antiquities*. Collegium.

⁴ Pearson, in his *History of England during the Middle Ages*, says of the English Trade Gilds: "In spite of the English names under which we know them, it is pretty certain that they only continued the old Roman Collegia of the trades." The Bishop of Oxford (Dr. Stubbs) and Mr. E. A. Freeman, however, do not accept this theory in their respective histories, but agree with Hallam (*Middle Ages*, i. 349) that the gap between Roman influence and the early gilds is too dark a period to trace this descent with any certainty.

⁵ Stonehenge, Avebury, Rollrich, etc., etc.

stones were erected to commemorate heroes, and also to build rude forms of temples to their mythical deities.

In A.D. 43 the Emperor Claudius sent Aulus Plautius to form a colony in Britain, and in a very short time he instituted Roman laws and institutions, founded cities, and taught the people the useful arts.

The first Roman station was at Camulodunum,¹ and there appears to have been here a well-built town, as we read² of temples, theatres, baths, etc., etc.

At Chichester, or "Regnum," as it was called, we find a very early establishment of the Collegia or operatives' associations; and the discovery of the foundation of a temple dedicated to Neptune and Minerva by a Company of Roman Artificers in honour of the imperial family of Claudius fully confirms this conjecture.

The information is derived from a slab of grey Sussex marble which was discovered in 1723 in North Street.³ The fragments were pieced together⁴ when the following inscription was deciphered:—

. EPTVNO · ET · MINERVAE
 TEMPLVM
 .. O · SALUTE · DO . . . · DIVINÆ
 .. AVCTORITATE · . . · CLAVD
 .. GIDVBNi · R · LE · AVG · IN · BRIT ·
 GIVM · FABROR · . . · QVI · IN · EO
 D · S · D · DONANTE · AREAM ·
 ENTE · PVDENTINI · FIL · ⁶

¹ Colchester, Essex.

² Tacitus, *Annal.* lib. xiv. c. 32.

³ Horsfield, *Hist. Sussex*, vol. i. This stone is preserved at Goodwood, the seat of the Duke of Richmond, in a temple specially erected, and it is fixed between statues of Neptune and Minerva.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Collegium Fabrorum.

⁶ *Restoration*—

NEPTVNO ET MINERVAE | TEMPLVM | PRO SALVTE DOMVS DIVINÆ
 EX AVCTORITATE TI · CLAVDII · | COGIDVBNi REGIS LEGATI AVGVSTI IN BRITANNIA ·

It has been translated thus :—

The College or Company of Artificers (Masons), and they who preside over sacred rites by the authority of King Cogidubnus, the Legate of Tiberius Claudius Augustus, in Britain, dedicated this temple to Neptune and Minerva for the welfare of the Imperial family. Pudens,¹ the son of Pudentius, having given the site.

The spirit of building, which was introduced and encouraged by the Romans, so increased the number of operative masons, that when Constantius, the father of Constantine the Great, rebuilt the city of Autun in Gaul, A.D. 296, he was chiefly furnished with workmen from Britain,² which we are told abounded in the best artificers : so that at the end of the 3rd century numbers of masons were drawn from the island to assist at the building of Constantinople, to such an extent that the venerable Bede³ says that for want of masons, walls were repaired with sods instead of stone.

The departure of the Romans in 410 naturally led to a decadence in the arts introduced by them.

The Britons were, as we know, left in a helpless state, and easily fell under the dominion of the Saxon invaders.⁴ These people who arrived A.D. 449 were a rude horde, totally ignorant of art, and, like their German neighbours, were used to hovels of mud and rough stone with straw coverings, very little better than the ancient British

COLLEGIVM FABRORVM ET QVI IN EO | DE • SVO • DANT • DONANTE AREAM
CLEMENTE PVDENTINI • FILIO •

—Hübner, *Corpus Inscript. Latin*, vol. vii., p. 18.

¹ This Pudens was probably afterwards converted to Christianity. Canon Perry, in his *History of the English Church* (Murray, 1890), points to this inscription as showing a certain amount of probability in the tradition that St. Paul visited Britain, and draws attention to the name of Pudens being mentioned in the second Epistle to Timothy (2 Tim. iv. 21). See also, Haddan and Stubbs, *Councils* i. 22.

² Eumenius.

³ Bede, *Hist. Eccles.*, lib. i. c. 12.

⁴ See Palgrave and Kemble on Anglo-Saxon Hist.

habitations: consequently we find that for the next two hundred years the use of wrought stone was discontinued for building.

**Christianity
and
Masonry.** However, with the revival of Christianity under Augustine, and the need for substantial places of worship, the Bishop of York was induced to exert his influence and try to re-introduce the art of masonry. This bishop, Wilfred, was ably assisted by Benedict Biscop, Abbot of Wearmouth,¹ who, as we are informed by Bede,² travelled several times into France and Italy to induce masons³ to return with him in order to restore the lost art, and build in stone, as he quaintly says, "after the Roman manner."

William of Malmesbury in his *Chronicle* also dwells at some length on the restoration of the mason's art under Benedict Biscop. And we learn further, that the Abbey of Wearmouth fostered masonry, as there is a letter on record from Naitan, king of the Picts, to Coelfred, Abbot of Wearmouth, in which he entreats that some masons may be sent him to build a church of stone in his kingdom in imitation of the Romans.

Here we have undoubted evidence that the masons who could "set out" and work the freestone in order to produce the ornament necessary for the architectural effect, were from the very first taken up by the religious party, and from this connection with the monastic order we can easily see how the religious element in the traditions of the later masons' guilds originated.

We now pass on in our review to the time of Athelstan, and here we break ground in early English guild tradition.

We are informed by a 15th century MS., now in the British

¹ At this Monastery the Venerable Bede was educated.

² Bede, *Hist. Eccles.*, lib. i.

³ *Cementarii*. This word is found in Domesday Book of 1086, and as such masons are known until the 14th century, when the word *lathomus* is frequently used, particularly so in 1396, when the following passage occurs in a deed dated 14th June, 19 Richard II. (A.D. 1396): "Lathomos vocatos ffre maceons." See a paper by Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., in the *Masonic Magazine*, Feb., 1882. Also Sloane MS., No. 4595, p. 50, in the Brit. Mus.

Museum,¹ and which will be considered on a future page, that King Athelstan, who loved geometry, granted a charter to the masons at York in 926. This charter is not now to be found, but there is a general belief that one was granted.

The MS. in question further says "that congregations of masons were to be held annually or triennially for the examination of Master Masons respecting their knowledge of the craft." This would tend to show that in those days the geometrical knowledge requisite in a foreman or master mason was looked upon as a secret, and was only practised by a certain class of masons, who were known as *Maçons de Franche-pierre*,² or Freestone Masons, to distinguish them from the ordinary rough mason or waller, whose work consisted of coarse rubble-stone, afterwards plastered over to give it a surface.³

The Norman Conquest brought with it a fresh
1066-1172. impetus to the building art. The early Angevin kings were all great builders, and many of our cathedrals either date from this period or were rebuilt under Norman influence. Papworth draws attention⁴ to Robertus Cementarius, a master mason employed at Saint Albans in 1077, who for his skill, which it is said excelled all masons of his day, had a grant of land and a house in the town. It is probable that this Robert occupied the position we should now term architect,⁵ although classed here as a mason.

In the reign of Henry II. no less than one hundred and fifty-seven abbeys, priories, or other religious buildings were founded in England, and it is at this period that we begin to see evidence of an entirely new style of architecture, namely, the Gothic.

¹ Add. MS. 23,198, written *circa* 1430.

² i.e. *Pierre de taille*.

³ This was done so late as at the building of the Abbey of St. Albans.

⁴ *Notes on the Superintendents of English Buildings in the Middle Ages*. By Mr. Wyatt Papworth, F.R.I.B.A. London, 1887. (Trans. R.I.B.A.)

⁵ A Robertus Cementarius is also mentioned in connection with Salisbury Cathedral. Again in the capacity of architect, although a mason. See Papworth.

**Gothic
Architecture.** The origin of the so-called Gothic architecture, otherwise pointed or Christian, as some writers prefer to call it, is one of the well-known controversies which will never perhaps be definitely settled. Nevertheless, we cannot altogether pass it over without a brief account of some of the various theories that have been advanced, one or two of which must claim attention.

First, there is the old theory that it was a realistic style, derived from the interlacing of the twigs and branches of trees which formed the holy groves of the early Celts, on which much has been written by Stukeley and Warburton; but as ribs between the groins in vaulting were not introduced until the 14th century (and this is the chief ground for the argument) the theory cannot be seriously considered.

Next, there is the hypothesis of Dr. Milner, which is, that of the intersection of semicircular arches, frequently seen in examples of the late Norman or Romanesque styles. This is not a very satisfactory solution, but still one that must not be lost sight of.

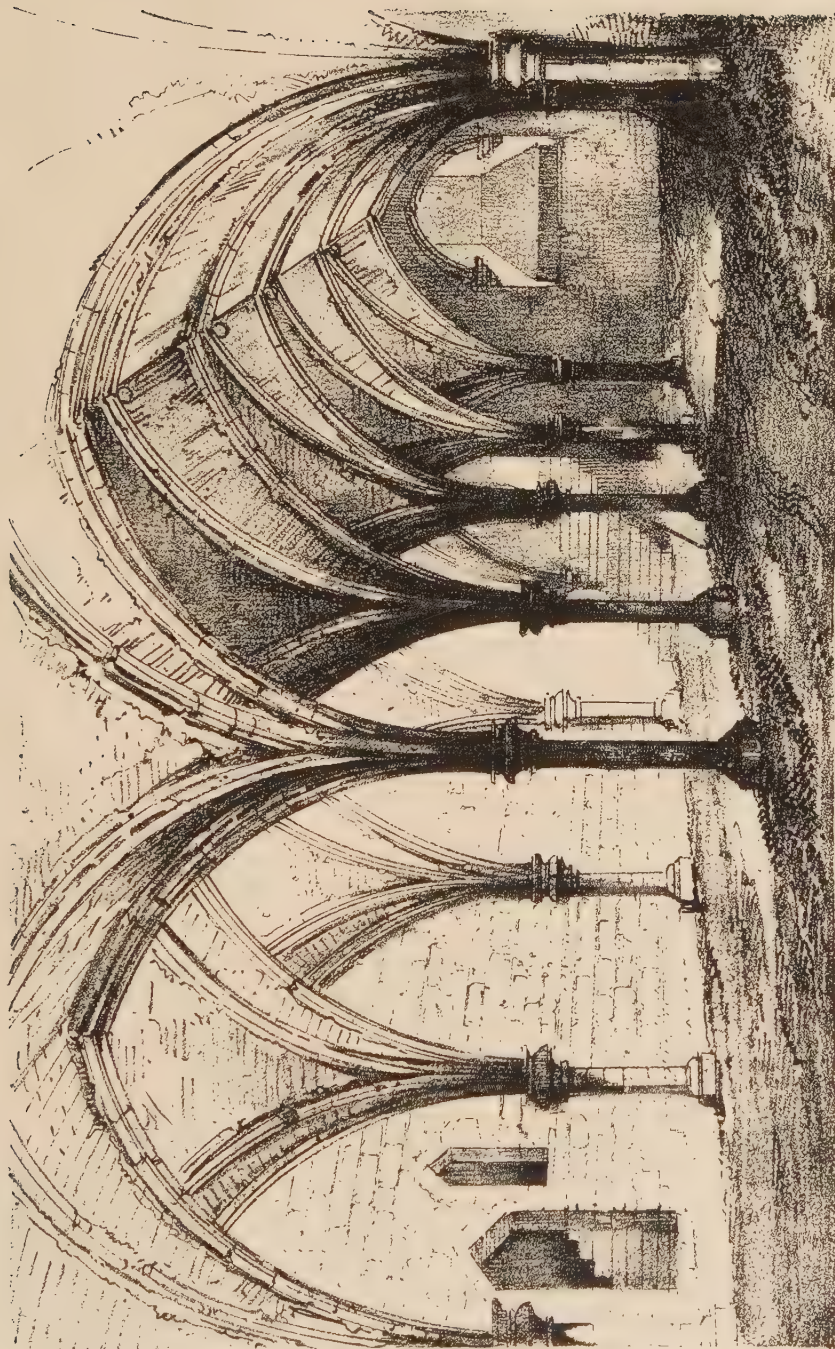
Möller advanced the plausible theory that it was the natural development of a change which took place at the end of the 12th century, and which consisted in raising the pitch of the roof or covering, and thus as a necessary sequence a pointed arch became inevitable.

Then we have the common idea that in all probability it was but a development of the transition between the Romanesque and Byzantine styles, by the operative gilds of masons in Gaul and Germany.

And lastly, there is the general, but perhaps altogether false, notion that it was of Eastern extraction, and due to the importation of Saracenic art by the Crusaders.

This theory is based on the assumption that, previously to the first Crusade, the pointed arch was unknown west of Constantinople.

All these theories, and many others, have been digested and summed up by the late Sir Gilbert Scott, perhaps the ablest of all writers on the subject.



CRYPT OF GERARD'S HALL, BASING LANE.
The residence of Sir John de Gisors, Citizen and Pepperer. (Destroyed in 1852.)

He says that Gothic or pointed architecture was no importation, but the result of the higher development of the building art in the Middle Ages.

"In the gradually increasing predominance of the vertical over the horizontal, the increase of the height of the pillars and jambs demanding a proportionate addition to the arch, the necessities of groined vaulting over oblong space, and a hundred other evidences, proved the pointed arch to be the inevitable result of the already attained developments, and after it had almost unconsciously appeared in intersecting arcades."¹

This extract speaks for itself, and although many students still prefer to leave the question an open one, it will be sufficient for our purpose to accept this without further investigation.

But the problem for solution is not who invented the pointed arch, but, in what way its prevalence in the 12th, 13th, and 14th centuries is to be accounted for.²

There is no question, that at about the end of the 12th century a pointed, and at length highly decorated style, rose simultaneously all over Europe, and the above question raised by Gwilt is a most important one.

How can we account for the fact, that at one and the same time, masons were erecting an altogether new style of building all over the Continent and in the British Isles, without some directing body to influence the prevailing taste. And if so, who and what was this widespread agency?

Tradition says that from remote times the building trades in all civilized countries formed themselves into a fraternity for mutual protection and the advancement of their arts.

The Dionysian architects are said to have been a fraternity of priests and laymen, who devoted themselves to the architecture of their temples, and other great works.

¹ Scott, *Lectures on Mediæval Architecture*. 1879.

² Gwilt's *Architectural Encyclopædia*.

They are spoken of as τὸ κοινὸν τῆς συμμορίας, or as we might say, "fellows or members of a company," showing clearly their resemblance to modern fraternities and gilds.

Coming down to the Middle Ages, Hallam¹ says: "Some have ascribed the principal ecclesiastical structures to the fraternity of Freemasons, depositaries of a concealed and traditionary science. There is probably some ground for this opinion, and the earlier archives of that mysterious association, if they existed, might illustrate the progress of Gothic architecture and perhaps reveal its origin."

It would appear from the *Parentalia*² that Sir Christopher Wren also held similar views as to the assistance the fraternity of masons rendered in diffusing Gothic or pointed architecture.

From the pages of this memoir³ we gather the following opinion of that renowned architect: "The Holy War gave the Christians, who had been there, an idea of the Saracen works, which were afterwards by them imitated in the West; and they refined upon it every day, as they proceeded in building churches. The *Italians* (among which were yet some Greek refugees), and with them French, German, and Flemings joined into a Fraternity of Architects, procuring papal Bulls for their encouragement and particular privileges.⁴ They styled themselves 'free masons,'⁵ and

¹ Hallam, *Europe in the Middle Ages*, ed. 1853, vol. iii. p. 358.

² Wren's MSS., Brit. Mus. Add MS. 6768, fo. 146.

³ The *Parentalia*, by Sir C. Wren's son, Christopher Wren, was published in London in 1750, and contains memoirs of the family of Wren, but chiefly that of Sir Christopher.

⁴ This statement has never yet been authenticated, although search has been made at the Vatican for documentary evidence.—See Gould's *History of Freemasonry*, vol. i. p. 259.

⁵ Free masons. Many writers have thought that this term comes from the freedom conferred on the masons by the papal bulls, which we are told were from time to time issued in their favour. The general opinion now is that a free mason meant nothing more than a mason *free* of his gild or company. Nevertheless there are many who consider it was used to distinguish a freestone mason (*maçon de franche*

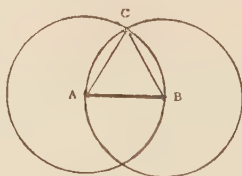
ranged from one nation to another as they found churches to build, for many in those days were in building through piety and emulation. Their government was regular, and where they fixed near a building in hand they made a camp of huts: a surveyor governed in chief: and every tenth man was called a warden and overlooked each nine," etc., etc.

This has long been the general idea of the commencement of the masonic fraternity, although an entirely erroneous one.

From an early time the triangle seems to have been associated with as much mystery and veneration as the number 3; and according to Plutarch it was the symbol of justice.

To the early Christian the triangle would be the symbol of the Trinity, as the circle would be that of eternity.

Now as we find the elements of Euclid became a text-book about the 12th century,¹ we can easily imagine how the construction of the equilateral triangle according to the first proposition of the first book of Euclid, must have struck the early Christian architect, and given him, by the intersection of the two circumferences, a new model for the arch, and symbolically shown him the Deity ever present where the eternity of the past overlapped the eternity of the future, who was, and is, and is to be.



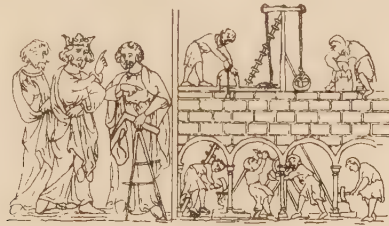
And if we follow the details of Gothic architecture, we shall see that the triangle and the circle form the keystone to that ornamental tracery for which this style is noted.

pierre) from a rough mason or one who simply built up plain walling, etc. It is possible also that in early times it was used frequently to denote a marble mason or sculptor. Just as we use the term freehand drawing in contradistinction to mechanical drawing.—See *post*, page 70.

¹ Gwilt's *Encyclopædia of Architecture*.

This symbolical language of masonry, together with the use of the mason's square and compasses, would be doubtlessly used by the ecclesiastics as an object lesson to the workmen engaged on the sacred edifice,¹ and so become incorporated in the traditions of their gild.

It was doubtless this geometrical knowledge which the early masons wished to keep as a trade secret, as well as the "inner "



KING AND
MASTER MASON. MASONS AT WORK.

From a miniature in MS. Life of King Offa. It relates to the building of S. Alban's Abbey Church. The MS. is the work of Matthew Paris, who flourished in the 13th century.
—Brit. Mus., *Cottonian MSS.*, Nero, DI.

symbolical language of their art, and by forming themselves into a brotherhood, they were enabled to accomplish this as well as to "Initiate" their apprentices into the higher meaning which these geometrical figures exercised on their minds as symbols of Christianity and of the duties of a moral and upright form of life.

¹ The masons at the cathedrals and other large ecclesiastical buildings were attached to the monastery, and often a technical school of masonry was founded by the monks, who in teaching the craft would not forget the higher or symbolical meaning to be derived from the geometrical figures used in tracing sections, etc.—See *ante*, p. 24.

THE GILD.¹

THE history of the mediæval gilds by Toulmin Smith, and the histories of the London Livery Companies by Herbert² and Hazlitt,³ have placed before the general reader a most lucid account of these social and trade fraternities.

They tell us that the seed sown by the Romans in this country when they instituted their "societas," and "collegia artificum," sprang up again in Saxon times and flourished in the frith gilds, and cniighten gild of London.

These gilds, Hallam⁴ says, "were Fraternities by voluntary compact, to relieve each other in poverty, and to protect each other from injury. Two essential characteristics belonged to them: the common banquet, and the common purse. They had also, in many instances, a religious and sometimes a secret ceremonial to knit more firmly the bond of fidelity. They readily became connected with the exercise of trades, with training of apprentices, and the traditional rules of art."

In towns, the principal merchants formed themselves at an early date into a community known as the Gild-Merchant;⁵ and at first the civic government was entirely in their hands.⁶

This monopoly of power was, according to Brentano, success-

¹ Gild, or guild, is usually derived from the Saxon *gildan*, to pay. Furnivall and others consider that its origin is to be found in the old Welsh *gŵyl*, a feast or holiday.—*English Gilds*, p. lxi.

² *History of the Twelve Great Companies*. Herbert, 1860.

³ *History of the Livery Companies*. Hazlitt, 1892.

⁴ Hallam, *History of the English Constitution*.

⁵ Their board of management were termed aldermen, and this title was afterwards appropriated by the principal officers of corporated towns.

⁶ Originally the Gild-Merchant was an association of the owners of the land on which the town was built, and of owners of estates in the neighbourhood. Many of these patrician families carried on business in the towns; and for a considerable time governed them through the Gild Merchant.—*Report of the City Companies' Commission*, vol. i. p. 9.

fully attacked by the trades; who, following the example of the merchants, soon formed craft-gilds for the protection of their calling, and in time became powerful trade organisations.

We thus find that the gild-merchant and the craft-gilds, by uniting their power, became at length the germ of the municipalities of Europe.

The gild system¹ spread to such an extent in this country, that the Parliament of Richard II., sitting at Cambridge, in 1388, issued writs to the Sheriffs of each county, calling upon the Masters and Wardens of all gilds and brotherhoods to send up to the King's Council all details concerning their foundation, object, statutes and property.

The returns from the gilds to this writ show that nearly every country town and district had either a secular or religious fraternity; indeed, so late as 1520, we learn from the *Cole MSS.*² that there was hardly a town in the country without one or more gilds.

¹ To a large extent the gilds were religious bodies, and we may accept it as certain that no gild was without its patron saint; this religious element was not finally abolished until the Reformation.

² *Cole MSS.*, Brit. Mus., 5861, p. 434. The following account of a mediæval gild at Cambridge will illustrate the customs of one of these religious bodies. (MS 5869 F. 134^b) *Statutes of the Gild of S. Clement, pope and martyr.* Cambridge, A.D. 1431.

"In ye Worchippe & Reverence of ye blysfyl Trinite Fadir & Sone & holy Goste and of ye glorious Pope and Martyr Seynte Clement and of all ye holy Companye y^t is in Hevene These ben ye Ordynannces and Statutys of ye Gylde of ye saide Seynt Clement which is holden in ye Chirche of ye same Seynt Clement in Cambrigge made by ye comn Assente of all ye Brethren of ye forsayd Gylde in ye Zere of oure Lorde Ihu Millo CCCC^o & XXXI^o. First we have ordeyned for to have oon general & Pincinal day ye which schal be holden every Zere on ye Sonday next after Lowsonday at which all ye Brethren & ye Sustris of this Gylde schal com to gyder unto a certeyne place assigned thereto as they schal ben warnyd by ye Deen for to gon to ye forsayd Chirche of Seynt Clement on ye Saturday unto Evensonge and on ye Sonday to ye Messe. And what Brother and Sustir yet is within ye Towne and is sommenede be ye Deen & comyth not on ye Saturday to ye evensonge he schal payen 1 Lib wax to ye Amende-ment of ye Lightes. And whoso cometh not on ye daye to ye Messe in his best Clothyng in ye Worschippe of God, and of Seynt Clement he schal payen 1 Lib wax."

The vocation of the mason at this period necessarily involved travelling from place to place, as whenever a great church or cathedral was to be built, the local masons had to be reinforced by members of the gild from other districts. These masons were accommodated near the site, and had access to a gild room or, as it was called, a lodge, to transact the business of setting out and making working drawings for the carrying out of the structure.

York Cus-
toms.

In the fabric rolls of York Minster,¹ 1355, orders were issued for the guidance of the masons. In summer they are to begin work immediately after sunrise, until the ringing of the bell of the Virgin Mary ; then to breakfast in the fabric lodge ; then one of the masters shall knock upon the door of the lodge, and forthwith all are to return to work until noon. Between April and August, after dinner, they shall sleep in the lodge ; then work until the first bell for vespers ; then sit to drink to the end of the third bell, and return to work so long as they can see by daylight.

It was usual for this Church to find tunics, aprons, gloves and clogs, and to give occasional "drinks," and remuneration for extra work.

The gift of gloves and aprons, and the use of a lodge by the masons, were customary whenever the works were on a large scale, and numerous instances are mentioned by Mr. Papworth in his interesting papers.²

A curious instance is given at Bury St. Edmunds. In 1435 the mason contractor was to have £10 a year ; board for himself in the convent hall as a gentleman, and for his servant as a yeoman ; also two robes—one for himself of gentleman's livery, that of the servant to be a yeoman's livery.

In 1321 there is mentioned the payment of 2s. 6d. for straw to

¹ See *Fabric Rolls of York Minster*, 1355. Published by the Surtees Society. Vol. 35, 1858.

² Extracted from a paper by Mr. Wyatt Papworth in the *Transactions of the Royal Inst. of Brit. Architects*.—See also Gould in his *History of Freemasonry*.

cover the masons' lodge at Carnarvon Castle, and a man was paid one shilling a week for blowing a horn to call the masons from "refreshment to labour," or the reverse.

A Lodge at
Canterbury. At Canterbury, in 1429, under Archbishop Chichely, the Prior, Wm. Molash,¹ of Christchurch, shows in his accounts that a livery of murray cloth was given annually to the magister, custos, 16 lathami, and 3 apprenticii de la loygye lathamorum. This community of masons is often mentioned in the accounts, and seems to have been attached to the Priory as a kind of technical school of masonry. It was doubtless only one of many such schools or guilds of masons patronised by the clergy.

The wages of the early masons are given in a roll of expenses of King Edward I.² Wages paid by the King to his masons at Rhuddlan Castle (1281).

Sunday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary paid to one Master Mason receiving 6*d.* per diem, and five Masons each receiving 4*d.*, and one workman receiving 3*d.* per day, for their wages from the said Sunday to the Saturday next before the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, for twenty-eight days, the sum of £3 7 8.

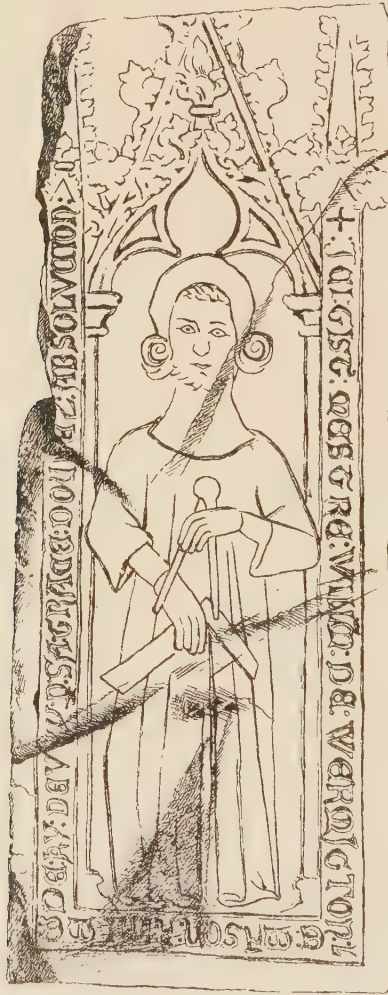
We have seen by the foregoing account of the operative mason, that unlike an ordinary craftsman, after serving seven years' apprenticeship, he could not settle down to follow his calling, but was obliged to travel from one place to another as works were finished and new ones begun; hence it was very necessary that the craft should possess secret signs of recognition, in order that the travelling mason might claim the assistance and hospitality of his fellow-workmen, and be enabled to obtain employment on a building without having to give, wherever he went, fresh evidence of his skill.

The close connection with the religious bodies, by reason of the building of churches, made it necessary that certain of the priest-

¹ *Tanner MSS.* Bodleian Lib., Oxford.

² *Archæologia*, vol. xxvi.

hood¹ and lay patrons should be initiated in their system ; and as I have remarked before, this intimacy is shown by the religious



TOMBSTONE OF WILLIAM WARMINGTON, MASTER-MASON AT CROYLAND ABBEY, IN 1427.

[From "*Transactions of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati*," vol. v. pt. 2.]

element and Biblical tradition found commingled in the history of the mediæval Society of Masons.

¹ In many cases the monks were the chief "architects," or masters of the works, and frequently worked as masons.

The Constitu-
tions of
Masonry.

The Act of Richard II.,¹ calling for the particulars of all the gilds, seems to have produced from the masons an epic poem concerning their foundation and rules of life. This poem exists in MS. in the British Museum² Library; and in a catalogue of the King's Library, dated 1734, it is described as a "Poem of Moral Duties."

But mason schulde neu won of calle.
 Wt ynne ye craft-amongus hem alle.
 Hy soget. ny seruand. my dere broy.
 Parht he be not. so ppyt as ys anoy.
 Uchon stull calle op. felowes by cuthie.
 ffor cause yey come. of ladyes burpe.
 On yis man. proz good wytte of gemetry.
 By gan furst ye craft. of masonry.
 Ye clerk eudye. on yis wyse hyt fonde.
 Yis craft of gemetry. yn egypte londe.

FAÇSIMILE OF PART OF THE HALLIWELL PHILLIPS MS. BRIT. MUS., BIBL. REG. 17 A1.

It was not until Mr. Halliwell-Phillips read a paper³ at the Society of Antiquaries,⁴ in 1839, that the contents of this curious document became known. It consists of thirty-three vellum leaves, on which is written, in Gothic letters, a metrical version of the rules,

¹ See *ante*, p. 22.

² MS. Brit. Mus., Royal Collection, 17A 1.

³ On "The Antiquity of Freemasonry in England," by Jas. Orchard Halliwell, F.R.S.

⁴ *Archæologia*, vol. xxviii. See also *The Early History of Freemasonry in England*, by J. O. Halliwell. Second edition, 1844. This MS. has also been issued in facsimile by the Lodge Quat. Coronati.

history and traditions of the Mediæval Gild of Masons.¹ The date of the MS. is about 1400-1420.²

It begins by reciting the legend of the discovery of geometry in Egypt by Euclid, and then goes on to say :—

“Thys craft com ynto Englund as y yow say
Yn tyme of good Kyng Adelstonus day.”

and further, that this King Athelston, who “loved thys craft ful well,” caused an assembly of dukes, earls, barons, knights, and squires to meet the masons, and at this meeting fifteen Articles and fifteen points were agreed upon. The fifteen Articles have been summarised by Gould³ as follows :—

FIFTEEN ARTICLES FOR THE “MAYSTER MASON.”

1. He must be “stedefast, trusty, and trwe,” and upright as a Judge.

2. “Most ben at the generale congregacyon” and to know where “yt schal be holde.”

3. Take apprentices for seven years “Hys crafte to lurn, that ys profytable.”

4. “No bondemon prentys make” . . . “æf yn the logge he were y-take.”

5. “The prentes be of lawful blod” and “have hys lymes hole.”

6. Not “To take of the Lord for hyse prentyse, also muche as hys felows.”

¹ The date of the MS. has been placed as early as 1388, and by some as late as 1445.—See Gould's *History of Free Masonry*, vol. i. pp. 60, 79, 83.

² Kloss is of opinion that it was for the *London* Gild of Masons as the seven years' apprenticeship is made a prominent point.—See Gould's *History of Free Masonry*, vol. ii.

³ Gould, *History of Free Masonry*, vol. i. p. 82.

7. "Schal no thef accept" "lest hyt wolde turne the craft to schame."

8. "Any mon of crafte, be not also perfyte, he may hym change."

9. "No werke he undurtake, but he conne bothe hyt ende and make."

10. "Ther schal no mayster supplante other," but "be as systur and brother."

11. He ought to be "bothe fayr and fre," and "techyte by hys myȝth."

12. "Shal not hys felows werk deprave" but "hyt amende."

13. His apprentice "he hym teche" in all requisite particulars.

14. So "that he, withynne hys terme, of hym dyvers poynts may lurne."

15. And finally, do nothing that "wolde turne the crafte to schame."

FIFTEEN POYNTE FOR THE CRAFTSMEN.

1. "Most love wel God, and holy churche, and hys Mayster and felows."

2. Work truly for "huyres apon werk and halydays."

3. Apprentices to keep "their Mayster conwsel" in Chamber and "yn logge."

4. "No mon to hys craft be false," and apprentices to have the same law.

5. Masons to accept their pay meekly from the master, and not to strive.

6. But to seek in all ways "that they stonde wel yn Goddes lawe."

7. Respect the chastity of his master's wife and "hys felows concubyne."

8. Be a true mediator "to hys Mayster and Felows fre," and act fairly to all,

9. As steward to pay well, and truly, "To mon or to wommon, whether he be."

10. Disobedient Masons dealt with by the Assembly, the Law, and forswear the craft.

11. Masons to help one another, by instructing those deficient in knowledge and skill.

12. The decisions of the Assembly to be respected, or imprisonment may follow.

13. "He schal swere never to be no thef" and never to succour any of "fals craft."

14. Be true "to hys lyge Lord the Kynge," and be sworn¹ to keep all these "poynts."

15. And to obey the Assembly on pain of having to forsake the craft, and be imprisoned.²

King Athelstan then says :—

"These statutes that I have here found
I will they be holden through my land,
For the worship of my Royalty,
That I have by my dignity."

We next hear of the "Four Crowned Martyrs";³ and after a recapitulation of the biblical tradition of Noah's flood, of the tower of "Babylon," Nebuchadnezzar, and the good clerk Euclid who taught the seven sciences: "grammatica," "dialectica,"⁴ "rhetorica," "musica," "astronomia," "arismetica," and "gemetria."⁴ The poet then

¹ "And alle schul swere the same oghth of the Masonus." . . . (Lines 437-8).

² "The Sheriff shall come and them soon to, and put their bodies in deep prison." (Lines 464-5).

³ The Four Crowned Martyrs were four working masons, or sculptors, who are said to have suffered death at Rome in the reign of Diocletian, rather than make a statue to a heathen god. In the Sarum Missal, 11th century, the 8th November is set apart to their glory.—See also *Trans. Lodge Quat. Coronati*, i. pp. 59, 149, etc.; *Mas. Mag.*, viii., 1880-81, pp. 77, 109.

⁴ See Vitruvius on the necessary qualifications for an architect. (*Ante p.* 25.)

breaks off into monastic rules, doubtless laid down for the masons who were attached to a priory.



They are told :—

"To the Church door when thou dost come
Of the Holy Water there take thou some . . .
. . . In Church—Say Pater noster and thy ave . . ."

and "To kneel on *both* their knees ; and to thus end their prayers :"—

"Amen Amen so mote hyt be
Now, swete Lady,¹ Pray for me."

The poem ends with some eighty lines on the behaviour of masons to their superiors at table, and when meeting them elsewhere. They are told at meals to keep their hands clean, and—

¹ The Blessed Virgin.

“Not at thy meat thy tooth thou pick
Too deep in the cup, thou might'st not sink.”

and the MS. ends with the following couplet :—

“Amen amen so mote hyt be
Saye we so pour charyte.”

From this poem we glean that the masons had, as a gild, a tradition of high antiquity ; that they were accustomed to meet at a general assembly when their laws were, from time to time, read over and altered when necessary ; that a certain religious tone was to be inculcated into the trade ; and that an *esprit de corps* should keep the craft from shame.

There is nothing of mystery or secrecy about the poem, and a portion of it coincides almost word for word with the *Instructions for Parish Priests*, a poem of 14th century notoriety.¹ The fact that it may have been written for the Gild of Masons in London² made it necessary for me to deal with it at some length.³

THE LIVERY COMPANIES OF THE CITY OF LONDON

We have seen on a previous page how the trades of London formed themselves into Craft Gilds, and together with the Merchant Gild became the municipal power.

Long before incorporation however, the trade gilds of London had framed rules for their guidance, and a Prime Warden or Master,

¹ Myrc's *Instructions for Parish Priests*, MS. A.D. 1420 (Early Eng. Text Soc., 1868). This may be the date of the MS. in the British Museum, and this MS. might easily have been a copy from a much earlier one.

² See *ante*, p. 42.

³ The importance of this gild legend will appear later when we discuss the “old constitutions,” a copy of which was formerly kept in the document chest of the Masons Company ; it must, to a great extent, have resembled this old poem.

assisted by a body of the more prominent members, managed the affairs of each community.

With the growth of municipal organization, it became necessary for the State to recognise the existence of these bodies. This was done by Royal Charters of Incorporation,¹ granting them power of search, the monopoly of the particular trade within a certain radius round the city, and the liberty of wearing a distinguishing dress or clothing : thus constituting what is now known as the Livery Companies of London.

From time immemorial there have been three grades of membership.

First. "The members of the freedom, or yeomanry,"² as it is sometimes called. This was obtained either by apprenticeship of seven years, patrimony, redemption, or gift.

Second. Members of the Livery³—those entitled to wear the clothing of the company and vote at Common Hall.

Third. Members of the Court of Assistants who formed the governing body, and from whom were chosen the master and wardens.

The privilege of all the members was a claim on the funds of the company in case of poverty or illness ; the right of exercising their trade or calling within the city ; and freedom from tolls and dues on the highway and in markets.

The companies generally had a gild house or hall for their meetings and for shewing hospitality ; and from the earliest times

¹ This was not universal, as many of the companies were content to exist by licence from the Court of Aldermen, who from time to time reviewed their rules and ordinances. Most of them, however, as time went on, obtained a Charter of Incorporation from the king ; in many cases three to four hundred years after their formation under civic rules.

² The 20 Rich. II. c. i. (1396) speaks of varlets or yeomen, "Vadletz appelez yomen."—Riley, *Memorials of London*.

³ These were usually the master craftsmen, and members of the yeomanry employed as workmen, when skilled labour was protected by a company, as in the case of the masons of London.

they always had a clerk to keep their accounts, and a beadle to summon the members together and transact other minor duties.

The earliest charter of incorporation of a gild appears to be that of the Weavers, *circa* 1100–1135; as in a charter of *inspeximus* in the possession of the company, mention is made of a previous charter granted by Henry I.

Under Edward III. and Richard II. charters of incorporation were freely granted to the trading and craft gilds, although there is evidence that they existed previously by licence from the civic government; for we find in the Exchequer Rolls for 1180 eighteen gilds¹ fined for having constituted themselves without the necessary leave. These gilds are termed “adulterine.”²

In the reign of Edward II. every citizen was ordered to enroll himself in the freedom of the city according to his trade or mistery. This word “mistery,” sometimes erroneously written mystery, is derived from the Norman-French word *mestière* or *métière*, a trade or calling.

Oath of the Masters and Wardens of the Mysteries

[Temp. Edwd. III.]

You shall swear, that well and lawfully you shall overlook the art or mystery of N. of which you are Masters, or Wardens, for the year elected.

And the good rules and ordinances of the same mystery, approved here by the Court, you shall keep and shall cause to be kept.

And all the defaults that you shall find therein, done contrary thereto, you shall present unto the Chamberlain of the City, from time to time, sparing no one for favour, and aggrieving no one for hate.

¹ The Butchers Company was one of these eighteen gilds. (See the Parliamentary Commission of 1884).

² This list of Adulterine Gilds has been searched for this work, but the Masons Company is not mentioned.

Extortion or wrong unto no one, by colour of your office, you shall do ; nor unto anything that shall be against the estate and peace of the King or of the City, you shall consent.

But for the time that you shall be in office, in all things pertaining unto the said mystery, according to the good laws and franchises of the said City, well and lawfully you shall behave yourself,—So God you help, and the Saints.

[From the *Liber Albus*, circa 1375.]

LIVERIES.

The date of the assumption of "Liveries" by the trading communities of London is uncertain. According to Stow's survey,¹ it was in 1299, after the marriage of Edward I. with Margaret his second wife, at Canterbury, the mayor and all the citizens of London, to the number of six hundred, rode to meet the procession in one livery of red and white, with the cognizances of their gilds or mysteries embroidered on their sleeves. Besides the fraternities, the greater barons supplied their retainers with livery, and in some cases to such an extent as to form small standing armies.²

Richard II., having a wholesome fear of baronial power ever before his eyes, attempted to check this custom by severe enactments. The Stat. i. of Richard II., 1377, orders that no one of less estate than an esquire should use or bear livery, unless he be a menial of a lord of the realm.

In 1405³ this statute was again confirmed, and a fine of £5 was to be inflicted on all persons of less estate than a knight who should give livery, and a fine of 40s. to the recipient. The gilds and companies of cities and boroughs alone excepted.

The livery of the city companies seems to have been a tunic

¹ Stow, ed. 1618.

² Cussan's *Heraldry*, article "Livery."

³ 7 Hen. IV. c. xiv.

and hood particoloured—that is, both sides of different colours. Stow mentions red and blue, red and white, purple and murray, etc., and further says that in his time¹ the members of the livery companies wore gowns instead of the “antient tunics”; and these of a “sad” colour; but their hoods were made up of one side the colour of the gown, the other side red as of old time.

Speaking of the livery, he says, the colours were chosen by the masters and wardens from time to time. In some instances the colours would be taken from the coat of arms granted to the gilds—in which case the masons’ livery would be black and white.²

Hazlitt³ says that the companies respected each other’s livery; so that a vintner would not presume to wear the livery of a grocer any more than he would venture to infringe on his charter or the ordinances of his craft.

Chaucer mentions the livery of the gilds in his *Canterbury Tales*,⁴ circa 1350.

¹ 1590.

² See the blazon on the grant of arms, dated 1472.

³ Hazlitt’s *History of the Livery Companies*, 1892.

⁴ Chaucer, the prologue to the *Canterbury Pilgrims*, says :—
 “ An Haberdasher, and a Carpenter,
 A Weaver, dyer, and tapiser (Broderer),
 Were alle yclothed in o livere,
 Of solempne and grete fraternitie.”

PART II

The Fellowship of Masons of the
Citty of London

THE COMPANY OR FELLOWSHIP OF MASONS

THE Masons Company has unfortunately, with one exception,¹ no existing documents earlier than a book of accounts dated 1620, all their loose papers having been either destroyed, sold, or otherwise lost.

It is therefore necessary to look outside the company's deed-box for evidence of the early history of the gild.

We have seen in the foregoing pages that the gild of masons was one of importance wherever building in stone was in progress ; and we cannot form any other opinion than that, from the earliest times, the city of London had its masons gild.

According to Stow, "The Company of Masons being otherwise termed Free Masons of antient standing and good reconing, by means of affable and kind meetings at divers times ; and as a loving brotherhood should use to do ; did frequent this mutual assembly in the time of King Henry the fourth in the twelfth year of his most gracious reign " ² (1410-11).

This statement is correct only so far as showing that the company was in being at that date, and we must not fall into the error that has been so often made, that the company was *founded* at that time ; indeed the evidence that is to be found in the Corporation Records at Guildhall prove very clearly that in 1375 the Masons Company existed and was represented on the court of Common Council ; and it is also recorded that so early as 1356, rules for the guidance of the masons of London were passed before the Mayor, Aldermen and Sheriffs of London.

¹ The Grant of Arms in 1472.

² Stow's *Survey of London*, ed. 1633, p. 630.

In the absence therefore of documentary evidence, it is more than probable that the masons at that early date were a company by prescription ; and had their ordinances and bye-laws passed and sanctioned from time to time by the Court of Aldermen.

We find that many other of the livery companies existed at this time under similar obligation to the Court of Aldermen, and in many cases they did not apply for a Royal Charter until the time of Elizabeth or under the Stuarts.¹

In the year 1180 the Exchequer Rolls show that the London craft gilds had formed themselves into fellowships and companies, many indeed without either the necessary sanction from the court of Aldermen or a Royal Charter.²

In that year it is recorded that eighteen gilds were severely fined for so doing : these were termed "adulterine gilds." This measure had a salutary effect, and from that time the gilds either petitioned for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, or else had their framed ordinances approved and passed by the Court of Aldermen.

The building of London Bridge in stone by Peter of Colechurch, begun in 1176, would of necessity bring the craft prominently before the citizens of London. It is therefore very probable that during the thirty-three years the bridge was building, the masons became an important body in the city ; and with the laying of the foundation-stone of the new Abbey Church of Westminster by King Henry III. in 1221 their importance would greatly increase. So that it would become necessary to form themselves, if they had not already done so, into a Fellowship for their mutual protection and assistance.

The foundation of the company may therefore, roughly speaking, be placed about the year 1220, if not earlier.

Having arrived at something like a probable date, I will sketch

¹ The Coopers were a company in 1396, but were not incorporated until 1501. The Broderers also existed for nearly three centuries before incorporation. The Horners existed nearly four centuries before their Charter in 1638, and I might quote many more.—See *Parliamentary Commission*, 1884.

² See *ante*, p. 48.

the history of the company down to the Charter of Incorporation by Charles II., from documentary evidence obtained, either at the Guildhall, the British Museum Library, or from the Statutes of the realm, and from one book of accounts still in the possession of the Company. After the date of the Charter, the court books and accounts of the Company will carry the chronicle down to the time of writing these pages.

THE CHRONICLE.

A.D. 1200. The building of London Bridge in progress, under the superintendence of Peter, Chaplain of St. Mary Colechurch, Poultry.

1201. King John¹ recommends to the Mayor, Henry Fitz-Alwin,² Isenbert, master of the schools of Xainctes, as a mason well versed in the construction of stone bridges, to undertake the management of the work, upon the advice of Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury. Members of the "Society of Masons" arrive in London from various parts of the country.

It has been noted previously that the "Society"³ of Masons was a fraternity attached to religious houses and elsewhere, who had rules for their guidance, framed by their master masons and fellows, assisted by the monks. Also certain secrets, signs, and symbols relative to their craft, which had descended to them doubtless from a remote antiquity, together with some knowledge of geometry, then regarded as a trade secret.

This peculiarity of the craft was no doubt part of the tenets

¹ See record in the Patent Rolls, a translation given in the *Chronicles of Old London Bridge*, p. 70. Timbs, London.

² Henry Fitz-Alwin, the first Mayor, served twenty-four years.

³ By "Society" is meant the secret and symbolical Fraternity of Masons, as previously described, and which is known to-day as the Society of Free and Accepted Masons.

of the higher class of London masons, that is to say the freestone masons, those who possessed the requisite knowledge to draw plans and "set out" work. But to the ordinary or rough-mason, as the setters, layers, and others were termed, the signs, symbols, and elementary geometrical knowledge would be unknown, and consequently no part of their craft. Hence the early Fellowship of Masons of London would simply be of a strictly operative or protective character in order to include both classes of masons if necessary.¹

The Company founded. The formation of the Fellowship or Company, by members of the society and others, would take place at this period; and although at first styled "The Masons Fellowship," it became known in the 16th and part of the 17th centuries² as the Company of Free-masons.

Free-Mason. According to Mr. Wyatt Papworth the word Free-Mason appears for the first time in a document dated 14th June, 1396 (19 Richard II.), now in the British Museum,³ in which occurs the following passage: "*Viginti et quatuor Lathomos vocatos ffree Maceons et viginti et quatuor Lathomos vocatos ligiers,*" or as it may be translated: "Twenty-four masons called free (stone) masons, and twenty-four masons called layers or setters."

There is however in 1375 mention made in the civic records of Free-mason, but not in the above sense. Previously the masons had been distinguished as *Maçon de Franche Pierre*, but after 1400 the words free-mason and rough-mason are in constant use.

"From these details,"⁴ says Mr. Papworth, "three facts are obtained. The first: that the earliest use of the English term free-mason was in 1396 without any previous Latin word. The

¹ There is however evidence that the symbolical part of Masonry *was* practised by the Company. This will be treated at a later date in these pages.

² Until 1660.

³ *Sloane MS.* 4,595.

⁴ See paper on the "Superintendents of English Buildings in the Middle Ages," by Mr. Papworth. *Trans. R.I.B.A.*, 1859-60.

second is that the word freestone-mason (*Maçon de Franche Pierre*) had been employed previously, and the third fact is that the term free-mason¹ itself is clearly derived from a mason who worked freestone, in contradistinction to the mason who was employed in rough work.”²

1220. King Henry III. commences the re-building of Westminster Abbey. Stow says that the church was “built in a most goodly frame with a multitude of marble pillars, set in comely order.”

We find interesting particulars of the masons employed by the king among the “fabric rolls” of the abbey preserved in the Record Office.

Sir Gilbert Scott mentions, in his *Gleanings from Westminster Abbey*, the curious custom of the masons dividing the saints’ days with the king. From the fabric rolls above mentioned we gather the following items:—

1253.
Fabric Rolls
of Westminster
Abbey.

37 Henry III. (1253).

THE KING AND THE MASONS.

Translation: “First week after Easter, containing the feast of the Apostles Philip and James, on Thursday which belongs to the King, and the feast of the Invention of the Cross, which belongs to the masons.”

The second week is similarly said to “contain the feast of St. John *ante portam Latinam*, on Tuesday which belongs to the King,” and the third week is “*sine festo*.”

Thus throughout the roll the mention of feasts occurs, some-

¹ Wherever the term Free-mason occurs in these pages, freestone mason is intended; and wherever a member of the “initiated” occurs, he will be called a member of the Society of Masons, or an Accepted Mason.

² Some writers on the subject maintain that a Free-mason was an operative mason *free of his Gild or Company*, and *not* necessarily a freestone mason. At any rate the term did not mean a member of the “society” now called Freemasons.—See Gould’s *History of Free Masonry*; also *ante*, p. 33.

times two in a week, but generally only one; fourteen of the weeks have none. Whenever feasts are mentioned, they are assigned alternately to the king and to the masons.

The only intermission of this rule is the week when the feast of SS. Simon and Jude ought to have been given to the masons; but it is assigned to the king, apparently because of the feast stated in the title of the week, that is the first day of the king's regnal year.

It may be presumed therefore that the feast days thus assigned to the masons were kept as a holiday, and that they worked on the feasts assigned to the king, who in this roll is himself the employer of the masons.

Professor Willis¹ says: "I am not aware that this curious custom has been noticed by any previous writer."

1240.
London
Masons.

The Tower of London repaired and fortified by the London masons.

1255.

The Lion Tower, built to keep the King's lions, also a house for the elephant,² the first seen in England.

1257.

The city walls and gates rebuilt and repaired by the masons.

1272.
Viewers.

Two master masons and two master carpenters were chosen from those guilds to serve the office of City Viewers.³ Their duty was to inspect the walls and gates of the city from time to time. There is preserved in the city records "The Othe of the Viewers, Maister and Wardens of Masons and Carpenters."⁴

¹ *Gleanings from Westminster Abbey*, by Sir Geo. Gilbert Scott, with explanations by Professor Willis. Oxford and London, 1863, 8vo, p. 231.

² Chaucer, in the *Rhyme of Sire Thopas* (*Canterbury Tales*), speaks of a giant whose name was Sire Oliphant. (Was it this very animal that gave the poet this synonym?)

³ In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it is recorded that the Viewers (carpenters and masons) were bound on oath to inform the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the erection of any new buildings within the city.

⁴ Jupp, p. 193.

Terms of
reconciliation
of two Master
Masons.
26 Edward I.
(1298).

Not only did the Mayor and Court of Aldermen have to settle disputes as to trade rules of the gilds, but we find a case in which private disputes were also arranged between members of the same craft, as may be seen from the following :—¹

DEED IN LATIN. (*Translation.*)

“On Monday, the morrow of Saint Lawrence (10 August), in the 26th year of the reign of King Edward, there came before Henry Galeys, Mayor, Thomas Roneyn, William de Leyre, Geoffrey de Nortone, Walter de Fey-ingefend (Finchingfeld), and certain other Aldermen, Master Simon de Pab-ingham, and Master Richard de Wetham,² masons, who were then reconciled as to certain abusive words which had passed between them. And the agree-ment was to this effect, that the said Simon and Richard did grant each for himself, that if either of them should be able to give information against the other, that he had by the same abusive words, or in deed, committed trespass against the other, and such person should, upon the faith of two trustworthy witnesses, be found guilty thereof, he should give 100 shillings towards the fabric of London Bridge; and they further agreed that in case such person should not do so, the Chamberlain should cause the same amount to be levied.”

1300. Richard de Wycham, master mason, is sworn a
“viewer” over building in the city.

From the Liber Albus of the City of London, com-
Master
Masons
sworn, 1315. piled by John Carpenter in the Mayoralty of Richard
Whittington, we find that all master masons of the city of
London shall be sworn that they will make no “purprestures” upon
the streets or lanes within the city, or the suburbs, nor yet to the
prejudice of the neighbours, where they shall make the buildings,
contrary to the statutes of the city from ancient time ordained. This
was ordained the 8 Edw. II. (1315).

¹ *Memorials of London, 1276-1419.* Edited by H. T. Riley. Published by order of the Corporation, 1868. These master masons must have been prominent citizens to have had their private quarrels settled by the Court of Aldermen.

² In 1301 Richard de Wytham, or Wetham, made an oath with reference to his duties in all matters in connexion with his trade.—*Liber Cust.* ii. i. 100.

A.D. 1315.

8 Edw. ij. Qe Masons Soient jurrez.

Item, qe toutz maistres carpenters et masouns de la citee soient jurrez, quilz ne ferrount nulles purprises sur le rews ne reuelles deins la citee, ne le suburbe nen prejudice des veysins ou ils ferrount les edifiementz encountre les Estatuz de la citee d'ancien temps ordeignez.

1328.

The walls of London again repaired by the city Masons.¹

1332.

The exemption of the master mason at St. Paul's from serving on assizes next attracts our notice.

By an ordinance dated 6 Edward III.²

"It was agreed by John de Pultenye, Mayor, and the Aldermen, on the Monday next after the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr (7 July), in the sixth year of the reign of King Edward after the conquest the third, that Master William de Ramseye, Mason, who is master of the new works at the church of St. Paul's in London, and is especially and assiduously giving his whole attention to the business of the same church, shall not be placed on any assizes, juries, or inquests, nor shall he be summoned by the sergeants of the Mayor, Sheriffs, Bedels of the Wards, to come upon any summonses, special or common, to the Guildhall, or elsewhere, so long as he shall be in the service of the Church aforesaid, unless his presence shall be especially required for any certain cause."

We see from this order that Master William de Ramseye was a citizen of good position, and we doubt not that he was in the employ of the Ecclesiastics as general director of works. He would also, we may take it, be conversant with geometry, and able to set out plans, etc.; and besides being a Member of the City Gild of Masons, he would be a brother in the "Society of Masons," that practised and used secret signs and symbols. The City Gild at this time would include *all* masons, whether "initiated" members or not.

From "further accounts of monies expended by the City," 6 Edw. III., we gather the following notices of the London Masons:—

¹ Stow's *Annals*.

² *Memorials of London*. Edited by H. T. Riley.

To Henry de Leccheford and Edward Cosyn, for repair of the city wall and the Tun¹ 40L.

To Richard de Prestone for the work² of the Chapel at the Guildhall of London £14 12 0.

To Master Thomas de Canterbury, mason, for the same work . £6 17 0.

To Master William de Hurlee, carpenter, for the same work . . . 20s.

To the afore said Master Thomas, for the same work . . . 37s. 2d.

To John de la Rokele, for freestone bought of him for the chapel afore-said 5½ marks.

1336. The chief mason at the Tower of Lodon had a robe yearly, and one shilling a day.

At St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster, the masons were paid sixpence a day. The master masons receiving one shilling, an apprentice twopence, and the lodge attendant threepence.³

1337. The City Records show that this year certain building materials were removed from the Guildhall. Among them is found the following :—

“There were taken into the cellar of the same Guildhall 24 stones unwrought, and many other stones that were wrought, which were in the said garden, in the lodge there, were removed to the said cellar.”

From this entry it is evident that the lodge in the garden was nothing more than the mason's workshop.

1345. This year all master masons were again sworn to make no “purprestures” on the streets during the progress of works in the city.

¹ The prison on Cornhill.

² Repairs to the chapel built there in the reign of Edw. I.

³ Papworth.

THE STATUTES RELATING TO LABOUR

The Black Death, a terrible plague which had been
^{1348.}
 The Black Death. sweeping over Asia, arrived in England at this date. No
 plague known in history was so destructive to life. It is
 said that half the population of England perished in consequence of
 its ravages.

This decrease of the population made labour scarce, and a general rise in wages took place all over the country to such an extent that an ordinance was issued from the crown that all employés should be obliged to accept the wages which were formerly paid before the plague reduced their numbers.

In 1349 this took effect in what is known as the Statute of Labourers;¹ and in 1350 the price of labour was fixed by parliament.

In this statute,² 25 Edward III., we find the following:—
^{1350.}

“*Item.* That Carpenters, Masons, and Tilers, and other workmen of Houses, shall not take by the day for their work, but in such manner as they were wont, that is to say, a master carpenter IIIId and another IId; a master free-stone mason³ (mestre mason de franche pere) IIIId, and other masons⁴ IIIId and their servants Id, tylers IIIId and their knaves Id, plasterers and other workers of mud walls, and their knaves, by the same manner without meat or drink.

¹ In 1350 the wages of the building trade were regulated in the city. *Vide* Riley's *Memorials*.

² Gould devotes many pages to these Statutes, and from his work I have extracted these particulars.

³ “Master freestone mason” at a later date becomes “master freemason,” and “free mason” alone until 1660.

⁴ “Rough” masons, *i.e.* setters and wallers.

The Mayor, Aldermen, and commonalty of London¹ ordained at the same time that—

“In order to amend and redress the damages and grievances which the good folks of the city, rich and poor, have suffered and received during the past years by reason of masons, carpenters, plasterers, and others, take unmeasurably more than they have been wont to take, etc. In the first place, that the Masons, between the feast of Easter and St. Michael, shall take no more by the working day than 6*d.*, without victuals or drink.”

We now find the London Masons Gild, represented
 1356. by the chief master masons of both classes, namely, the freestone and the rough masons, having a code of trade regulations passed before the Court of Aldermen.

DEED IN LATIN. (*Translation.*)

Regulations for the Trade of Masons. At a congregation of Mayor and Aldermen, holden on the Monday next before the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (2nd Feb.), in the thirtieth year of the reign of King Edward III., By the grace of God King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, etc., etc., There being present Simon Fraunces, the Mayor, John Lovekyn and other Aldermen, the Sheriffs, and John Little, Symon de Benyngton, and William de Holbecke, commoners, certain Articles were ordained touching the trade of Masons, in these words:—

30 EDWARD III. A.D. 1356 [IN FRENCH].

WHEREAS Simon Fraunces, Mayor of the City of London, has been given to understand that divers dissensions and disputes have been moved in the said city, between the masons who are hewers, and the masons who are setters or layers, because that their trade has not been regulated in due manner by the government of folk of their trade in such form as other trades are: therefore the said Mayor, for maintaining the peace of our Lord the King, and for allaying such manner of dissensions and disputes . . . caused all the good folk of the said trade to be summoned before him, to have from them good and due information how their trade might be best ordered and ruled for the profit of the common people.

Whereupon the good folk of the said trade chose from among them-

¹ It would seem that the Masons and other gilds of the building trade had originated a strike against the Statutes.

selves twelve of the most skilful men of their trade to inform the Mayor and Aldermen as to the acts and articles touching their trade. That is to say

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Walter de Sallynge. | } | On behalf of the Mason hewers or Free-stone Masons. |
| Richard de Sallynge. | | |
| Thomas de Bredone. | | |
| John de Tyryngton. | | |
| Thomas de Gloucester. | | |
| Henery de Yeeveele (or Yevele). ¹ | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Richard Joyce. | } | On behalf of the Layers or Setters (rough Masons). |
| Symon de Bartone. | | |
| John de Estone. | | |
| John Wylot. | | |
| Thomas Hardegray. | | |
| Richard de Cornewaylle. | | |

The which folk having been sworn in the manner as follows :—

1. In the first place, that every man of the trade may work at any work touching the trade, if he be perfectly skilful and knowing in the same.

2. Also that the good folk of the said trade shall be chosen and sworn every time that need be, to oversee that no one of the trade takes work to complete if he does not well and perfectly know how to perform such work, on pain of losing, to the use of the commonalty, the first time that he shall, by the persons so sworn, be convicted thereof, one mark ; and the second time two marks ; and the third time he shall forswear the trade for ever.

3. Also, that no one shall take work in gross² if he be not of ability in a proper manner to complete such work :³ and he who wishes to undertake such work in gross, shall come to the good man⁴ of whom he has taken such work to do and complete, and shall bring with him six or four ancient men of his trade, sworn thereunto, if they are prepared to testify unto the good man³ of whom he has taken such work to do, that he is skilful and of ability to perform such work, and if he shall fail to complete such work in due manner, or not be of ability to do the same, they themselves, who so testify

¹ Henry Yevele, Free mason to Edward III., Richard II., and Henry IV.

² *i.e.* by contract.

³ This clause is evidently to protect the larger masons who contracted for work from smaller men without capital who would otherwise offer to do the work at a lower price on the chance of making a profit.

⁴ The owner of the property.

that he is skilful and of ability to finish the work, are bound to complete the same work well and properly at their own charges,¹ in such manner as he undertook: in case the employer who owns the work shall have fully paid the workmen. And if the employer shall then owe him anything, let him pay it to the persons who have undertaken for him to complete such work.

4. Also that no one shall set an apprentice or journeyman to work, except in the presence of his master, before he has been perfectly instructed in his calling: and he who shall do the contrary, and by the person so sworn be convicted thereof, let him pay, the first time to the use of the commonalty half a mark and the second time one mark,² and the third time 20 shillings, and so let him pay 20 shillings every time that he shall be convicted thereof.

5. Also, that none of the said trade shall take an apprentice for less time than seven years, according to the use of the city; and he who shall do to the contrary thereof shall be punished in the same manner.

6. Also, the said masters so chosen, shall oversee that all those who work by the day shall take for their hire according as they are skilled, and may deserve for their work, and not outrageously.

7. Also, if any one of the said trade will not be ruled or directed in due manner by the persons of his trade sworn thereunto, such sworn persons are to make known his name unto the mayor; and the mayor, by the assent of the aldermen and sheriffs, shall cause him to be chastised by imprisonment and other punishment, that so other rebels may take example by him, to be ruled by the good folk of their trade.

8. Also, that no one of the said trade shall take the apprentice of another, to the prejudice or damage of his master, until his term shall have fully expired, on pain of paying to the commonalty, for their use, half a mark each time that he shall be convicted thereof.

Documentary
History of
the Company.

The Company of Masons may from this time be said to commence its documentary history; the existence of the foregoing rules for the better management of all concerned, gives us some idea of the importance of the fellowship.

Henry
Yevele.

Among the masons who assisted at this historical meeting we notice the name of Henry Yevele. This master mason was a man of some eminence. Stow, in describing

¹ This was a most important clause, and made failure impossible.

² A mark = 13s. 4d.

the church of St. Magnus in Bridge Ward, says: "I find Henry Yevele, freemason to Edward III., Richard II., and Henry IV., who deceased 1400, his monument yet remaineth."¹

This Henry Yevele (or Zenele, his name appears in many forms) was master mason at Westminster Abbey, Westminster Hall, and the Charter House. He was also employed at King's Hall, Cambridge; Queensborough Castle, and at the re-building of St. Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. He was also a fair sculptor, as we see from his receipt² for £20 for making a bust of Cardinal Langham for Westminster Abbey. He likewise made the tomb for the remains of Richard II. and his queen.

1368. Richard atte Cherche and Thomas atte Barnet, master masons of London, sworn viewers for the year.

As the re-building of Westminster Abbey was of importance to the London Company of Masons, I will here give a few items from the fabric rolls of Westminster, preserved in the Record Office.³

Westminster
Masons
accounts
1342 to 1400.

Latin.

"Account of the new work of the old church at Westminster."

15 *Edw. III.* 1342. (Masons).

Four stones bought for making capitals 2/-

Wages of a mason for repairing bays of windows for one week 2/6.

Making four stone capitals 2/8. Each one 8d.

Hire of a mason for 1½ a day for placing the said capitals, and repairing columns 7½d.

Eleven corbels of stone bought = 5/4.

Wages of two masons clearing drains, and making, and placing the said corbels, 21 days = 10/6.

Paid to Walter le Bole mason, for the repair, and making four windows and one great pillar by special agreement = 20/-

His wages for making parapets = 60/-

His dress, boots, gloves, and his food found.

¹ This was written in 1598.

² *Historical M.S. Commissions IV. Report*, p. 179.

³ See also Sir Gilbert Scott's work on Westminster Abbey already mentioned.

18 *Edw. III.* 1345.

Payments to masons, and to two other marble masons 2/10.

Wages to two bedders of stone, also bread and ale given to the masons.

The Abbot's men and many others working on Monday, that they might better expedite the work on account of water in the foundation 7½*d.*

23 *Edw. III.*

Account of Brother John de Mordone.

Wages of two masons from the Feast of St. Michael to February the 23rd, 21 weeks, 70/- when a new agreement was made with them on account of flesh time whereby each mason had 4*d.* more videlicet 2/- per week.

To one of them as master mason, 26/8 over his wages, and for his dress, 13/4. For 2 pairs of shoes, 3/-, and for the mason's boy, 12*d.*

Wages for Adam de Wytteneye a bedder of stone for 34 weeks, 66/8 and for his servant, 48/-

Cement for joining the stones 6*d.*, besides wax for the sacrist.

The mason's tools for the year, 4/8.

26 *Edw. III.*

Payments to four masons two being occasional men, provided with winter dresses.

The head mason's fee, 26/8. Nothing for his dress this year because he refused to receive it, on account of the delay in its delivery.

31 *Edw. III.*

Precept of the Abbot (Langham).

Wages for six masons, one bedder of stone, 78/- the year and one servitor, 18/- besides his table with the sick to save expense.

Expenses of two masons at the quarry for 2 weeks shaping and sculpturing stone for the windows, 6/-

11 *Richard II.* 1388.

Accounts of Brother Peter Coombe at the church at Westminster. (The masons).

Fee of Master Yevele¹ chief mason 100 shillings per annum, and for his dress and furs 15 shillings.

Ditto to Robert Kentbury 13 shillings and 4 pence.

¹ This is Henry Yevele, the king's master mason, before mentioned.

A tunic of Thomas Paddington 10 shillings.

Five masons for seventeen weeks £15:11:8, one for five weeks, six labourers for seventeen weeks at 20 pence each.

Luncheons for all the masons, bedders, and labourers 23 shillings.

18 *Richard II.* 1395.

Wages for one chief mason, two regular, and six casual masons, the "table expenses for one mason's apprentice, 1 shilling per week."

At the burial of the queen, paid to the dauber for the lodge for the masons, and the house in Tothill Street, 15 shillings and 6 pence.

1 *Henry IV.* (*Part of 1399 and 1400.*)

Wages, etc., £62 5s. 10d.

Fee of Master William Colchester the Chief mason 100 shillings the year and for his dress and furs, two workers, four masons, two setters, and three labourers.

The foregoing accounts give us very useful information concerning the London mason in the fourteenth century, as regards trade customs and wages of the period.

1376.
Election by
the Livery.

We have now arrived at a very important date, namely, 1375. This year the right of election to the civic dignities, which had formerly been in the hands of the wards of London, was transferred, together with that of electing the member for Parliament, to the City Companies; and among the Corporation records there exists¹ a list of the companies of London who, in 1376, sent representatives to the Court of Common Council. In this list the Masons Company is included, as is also that of the Freemasons; but according to Mr. R. R. Sharp, who looked into the matter for Mr. Gould,² this latter company is struck out, and their representatives are added to the masons; indeed in later returns

¹ Letter Book H, fol. 46B, temp. Edw. III.

² Gould's *History of Freemasonry*, vol. iii. p. 145.

they are not mentioned. It may be that this entry was an error, or as Mr. Hazlitt¹ suggests, it may be an unrecorded fusion of both free-stone masons and rough masons who previously were separated. In any case, we have evidence that in 1376 the Masons Company of London was in existence and in a flourishing condition, as from the number of members the Company had on the Council, it is clear that it ranked among the principal gilds of the city.

We read² that there were 48 companies at this date who returned 148 members to the Council. The principal companies returned 6 members, the secondary companies 4, and the smaller 2 each.

According to this list,³ the masons elected 4 members and the free-masons 2. In the following year it is found that the latter company is struck off the roll, and its two representatives to the Common Council are added to the Company of Masons; thus raising the masons to the rank of a principal company.

¹ Hazlitt's *Hist. of the Livery Companies*, 1892.

² Herbert, also Gould.

³ *City Records*, lib. lx. fol. 46.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMPLETE LIST.

| A.D. 1376. | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Grossers, 6. | Fullers, 4. | Hurriers (Hatters), 2. |
| Mercers, 6. | Curriers, 2. | Smiths, 6. |
| Drapers, 6. | Freemasons, 2.* | Horners, 2. |
| Fishmongers, 6. | Brewers, 5. | Masons, 4.* |
| Goldsmiths, 6. | Fletchers, 2. | Ironmongers, 4. |
| Vintners, 6. | Bakers, 2. | Armourers, 2. |
| Tailors, 6. | Skinners, 6. | Butchers, 4. |
| Saddlers, 4. | Girdlers, 4. | Cutlers, 2. |
| Webbers, 4. | Stainers, 4. | Spurriers, 2. |
| Tapistry Weavers, 4. | Cloth-measurers, 2. | Plumbers, 2. |
| Leather-sellers, 2 | Haberdashers, 2. | Wax-chandlers, 2. |
| Leather-dressers, 4 | Brasiers, 2. | Barbers, 2. |
| Pouch-makers, 2 | Salters, 4. | Painters, 2. |
| Founders, 2. | Coppers, 2. | Tanners, 2. |
| Joiners, 2. | Pewterers, 2. | Woodmongers, 2. |
| Chandlers, 4. | Alebrewers, 2. | Pinner, 2. |

Giving a total of 148 members, or an average of three for each gild.

There is just a possibility that the freemasons, mentioned in the list of 1376, were in reality the marblers, or sculptor-masons, who, according to Stow, were amalgamated with the masons before 1633.

Having thus established themselves as a company of importance, we may follow the statutes of the Crown affecting the city, and conclude that the Masons Company bore its share with the other guilds in attending to the royal proclamations, although not specially cited.

As already mentioned,¹ Richard II. was anxious to sound the strength and learn the financial position of all guilds and fraternities: the following writ, therefore, was received by the Mayor of London, to which ordinance the Masons, with the other companies, would doubtlessly be subjected.

1390.
Writ for
Returns from
Gilds of Crafts.

CLOSE ROLLS, 12 RIC. II. m. 32, IN DORSO.

Translation—LATIN.

RICHARD by the grace of God King of England and France and Lord of Ireland to the Mayor and Sheriffs of London, greeting. For certain good and reasonable causes brought and made known before us and our council in our last Parliament held at Cambridge. We, strictly enjoyning, command you that you do at once, on sight of these presents, in the city of London aforesaid, and the suburbs thereof, where it shall seem to you best, let proclamation be made, openly and publicly that all Masters and Wardens, and Overlookers of all the Mysteries and Crafts in the City aforesaid, and the suburbs thereof, who hold any charters or letters, granted by us, or any of our forefathers, touching or concerning in any wise such mysteries, and crafts, shall bring and lay these charters and letters before us, and our council in our Chancery, before the feast of the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary now next coming, wheresoever it may be upon pain of the forfeiture, and loss, and perpetual annulling of the charters and letters aforesaid, and of all liberties, immunities and grants in the said charters and letters contained. And that they shall be ready to do, and undertake what shall be further

¹ See *ante*, p. 37.

ordered, and appointed in the premises by us and our said council, by virtue of the authority given us in Parliament make known to us, and our said council in our said Chancery together with this writ returned, the days and places of the making of the proclamation, and the names of those who make it, under your seals, plainly and clearly before the Octave of St. Hillary now next coming. And herein fail not at your peril.

Witness myself at Westminster on the first day of November in the 12th year of our reign.

(Signed) WYCHE.

Unfortunately no returns are in existence of the city companies, therefore we have no idea of the property or strength of the masons at this early date.

The result of these enquiries evidently told the king of the wealth of the citizens, and we find in consequence a demand on their purses.

Richard, finding his revenue not sufficient to support
 1392. his expenses, tried to borrow £1,000 from the city; the Corporation refused, however, and in order to punish them he took away the City Charter, and removed the Courts of Justice to York; nor would he return their privileges until they had consented to present him with £10,000.¹

From this time the city companies were constantly lending monies to the monarch on very slight security, evidently fearing a renewal of these severe proceedings.

The City
the Treasury. In fact, the citizens of London, by their successful trading and the accumulation of wealth, may be looked upon as the treasury of the nation in the Middle Ages. And as Mr. Hazlitt truly says: "The successive enfranchisement of the trades of London, with the concession in due course of *inspeximus* or new charters, is found to run parallel with the chronic financial embarrassment of the crown through misgovernment or through lavish expenditure on military equipment; and the city became, and

¹ Thos. Walsingham, *Hist. Anglica*.

remained during centuries, when all other channels had failed, the great resource of monarchs in straits."

"From a very early date the corporation and gilds adopted the principle of receiving security in some shape or other for money lent or given; and it would be an enormous total, if we could put down on paper the aggregate cost to London from first to last of its privileges and property."¹

1393.

The Mercers² Company received a charter of incorporation from Richard II. through the agency of Sir Richard Whittington.

1395.

Richard II. began to rebuild Westminster Hall; the walls were rebuilt and the fine timber roof constructed after the design of the famous London mason, Henry Yevele³; this was his last work.

1402.

⁴ In the fourth year of Henry IV. an Act was passed prohibiting carpenters, masons, and tylers from being hired by the week, and forbidding them to receive any wages on feast days, or more than half a day's wage when they worked on the eve of a festival "till the hour of none."

1411.

The present Guildhall was rebuilt by the London masons. Stow, speaking of the Masons Company, says: "They did frequent this mutual assembly in the time of King Henry IV. in the twelfth year of his most gracious reign."

It is possible that Stow had access to some documents in which were mentioned meetings of the masons concerning this work, which was of importance, considering it occupied the craft for twenty years.

The Masons
and the Guild-
hall Kitchen
in 1501.

Speaking of the Guildhall, Stow says: "Divers aldermen glazed the great hall, and other courts, as appeareth by their arms in the Windows. William Hariot, draper,

¹ Hazlitt's *History of the Livery Companies*, 1892.

² The Masons are associated with the Mercers in regard to the Irish property; hence this notice.

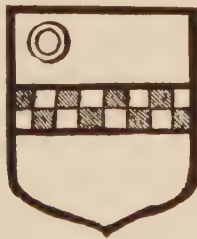
³ Henry Yevele was evidently a man of great parts as regards building construction.

⁴ Gould, *History of Freemasonry*.

Mayor, 1481, gave forty pounds to making of two louvers in the said hall, and towards glazing thereof. The kitchens and other houses of office adjoining to this Guildhall, were builded of later time, to wit, about the year 1501, by procurement of Sir John Shaa Goldsmith, Mayor (who was the first to keep his feast there), towards the charges of which work the Mayor had of the fellowships of the city (by their own agreement) certain sums of money as the mercers', forty pounds, and of others as they had the power."

The Masons Company did not subscribe money, but we find in the records that they gave instead a certain quantity of Kentish rag-stone for paving the kitchen.

1419. The works at Guildhall were so far advanced that this year the Mayor, Sir Richard Whittington, entertained King Henry V. at a banquet, when it is reported he burnt the bonds for money lent to King Henry to the value of £60,000. (Sir Richard was a wise man, no doubt.) It may be, however, that the success of the King's exploits in France, notably at Agincourt, in 1415, made the citizens ready to forgive this debt, as to them the honour of their country—ever dear to an Englishman—had been at stake.



ARMS OF SIR RICHARD WHITTINGTON.

As it is interesting to note the details of civic hospitality whenever possible, I here give a bill of fare¹ of the period, which will afford some idea of the class of entertainment, although that offered to the king by Sir Richard was doubtless on a larger scale.

¹ Bill of fare, from the Brewers Company's archives, for election day, A.D. 1419.

SEPTEMBER 5th, 1419.

[*In Norman-French.*]

Ordinaire de la Feste

Prem^{er} Course

Brawne ove le musturde

Caboches a la potage¹

Swan Standard

Capons rostez

Grande costardcs

Seconde Course

Venyson en broth ove

Blanch mortrewes²

Cony Standard

p^rtriches ove cokkes rostez³

leche lombard⁴

Dow^ettes ove pettíz parneux⁵

Trois^{me} Course

Poires en cerop⁶

Gantz birds ove

pettíz ensemble

Fretours—payne puff ove

Un cold bakemete

The Brewers' Accounts, from which Herbert gives many extracts, show that at this date (1419) the cost of certain viands were as follows :—

¹ Cabbage soup.

² A rich stew made of pork and poultry pounded in a mortar.

³ Partridges and cocks roasted.

⁴ Lombardy cream made of cream, isinglass, sugar, and almonds.

⁵ Sweets and little cakes.

⁶ Pears in syrup.

(See Herbert's *Hist.* for further particulars.)

| | | | | s. | d. |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| For 200 eggs | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 6 |
| ,, 6 swans | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 0 |
| ,, 12 conies | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 0 |
| ,, 11 gals. of red wine | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 2 |
| ,, 4 gals. of milk | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 |
| ,, 2 gals. of cream | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 8 |

At the feast on Election day, not only did the "brethren" and members meet, but also their wives, and sometimes their daughters were invited; indeed, in some cases, the attendance of their wives was not excused.¹

^{1421.}
The Masons
Company,
mentioned in
a List of the
Companies,
dated 1421-2. Among the entries in the books of the Brewers Company, from 1418 to 1440, is a catalogue of the 112 companies which existed in London, 9 Henry V., 1421-2. In this list the Masons stand thirty-eighth, immediately preceding the Carpenters. But this enumeration was probably unofficial, as no definite understanding as to the precedence of these companies was arrived at until the reign of Henry VIII.²

^{"Strikes,"}
^{1425.} We have seen by the various statutes enacted to regulate the trades of the carpenters, masons, and others, that since the Black Death had decreased the number of artizans, "strikes" had been common in the building trade.

^{The Masons'}
^{Gild-day, or}
^{Annual}
^{Assembly}
^{forbidden.} At this date, in consequence of the number of religious buildings in progress of construction, not only the number of masons, but also the gathering together, had greatly increased, and the various country gilds had been in the habit of meeting annually to pass regulations for their mutual benefit, doubtless assisted by the London company. They thus became a powerful trade union, and at about this date they would appear to

¹ Unless: "*Malade, ou grosse d'enfant, et pres sa deliverance.*"—TIMBS.

² Hazlitt's *Hist. of the Companies*, p. 407.

have entered upon a general strike all over the kingdom, as an Act of Parliament was passed to suppress these meetings.

3. Henry VI., cap. I., A.D. 1425.

“MASONS SHALL NOT CONFEDERATE IN CHAPTERS OR
CONGREGATIONS.”

WHEREAS, by the yearly congregations and confederacies made by the Masons in their general Chapters assembled, the good course and effect of the statutes of labourers¹ be openly violated and broken, in subversion of the law, and to the great damage of all the commons; our said Lord the King, willing in this case to provide remedy, by the advice and assent aforesaid, and at the special request of the said Commons, hath ordained and established that such chapters and congregations shall not be hereafter holden; and if any such be made, they that cause such chapters and congregations to be assembled and holden, if they thereof be convicted, shall be judged for felons: and that all the other Masons that come to such chapters and congregations, be punished by imprisonment of their bodies, and make fine and ransom at the King's will.

We do not hear of this Act being put in force, and, according to Judge Coke, this Act and all previous statutes to which it refers were repealed by the statute 5 Elizabeth, 1562, cap. 4. It may therefore be presumed to have had the desired effect. How far it affected the London Company we cannot say in the absence of documentary evidence.

^{1444.}
^{Wages}
^{Regulated.} The increasing opulence of the towns, by withdrawing both workmen and labourers from the country, led to further legislation in 1444, when the wages of labourers and artificers were again assessed.

From the Parliamentary Rolls, 23 Hen. VI.,² we gather the following particulars :—

¹ 25 Edward III., A.D. 1350.

² See also *Antiquarian Repertory*, vol. iii. p. 53.

WAGES OF ARTIFICERS, A.D. 1444.

"The fourme to be observed of salarie of Artificers in Cities & Burghs and elles wher beyng; and such as lasse (less) deserve, lasse to take, and alsoe in places wher lasse is vsed to be yeven lasse to be yeven hereafter, & y^{at} from y^e Fest of Ester vnto Mighelmesse y^e wages of eny free mason or maister Carpenter excede not by y^e daie iiij^{den} with mete & drynke, and withoute mete & drynke v^d ob. (5½^d).

"A roughe mason & meen Carpenter at beldynge by y^e daie iii^d with mete and drynke; iiij^{den} ob. with^{out} mete & drynke. And from y^e Fest of Mighelmasse vnto Ester a free mason & a maister Carpenter by y^e daie iii^d, with mete and drynke; with^{out} mete and drynke iiij^d ob.

"A meen Carpenter & rough Mason by y^e daie ij^d ob. with mete and drinke, withoute mete and drynk iiij^{den}. All other workmen by y^e daie i^d ob. with mete and drynk; withoute mete and drynk ij^d—and all that lasse deserve to take lasse."

1450. About this time the question of apprenticeships seems to have attracted attention, as we find an ordinance 8 Henry VI. stating, "that the Ancient Manner, form and custom, of putting and taking of Apprentices, used and continued in the City of London, be from henceforth kept and observed."

About a hundred years later the term of seven years' apprenticeship was definitely fixed for the whole kingdom, according to the custom of London. Hence it has been suggested, not without some degree of probability, that the old "Masons'" poem alluded to previously was written for the Fellowship of Masons or Masons gild of the City of London.

1463.
The Hall. The Masons Company obtain a lease for 99 years from the Prior and Convent of the Holy Church of the Trinity within Aldgate, London, dated 28th May, 3 Edward IV. (1463), of a portion of ground with buildings, converted by the Company into a hall, and situated within the Ward of Bassishaw.

It is probable that the hall which was destroyed by the great fire was erected about this date.

According to Stow, the Priory of the Holy Trinity was founded by Matilda, Queen of Henry I., about 1115, and became in time



A Facsimile of the vicinity of Masons' Hall, from the Map of London, by Agas, published circa 1560.

NOTE.—The Hall is situated about the centre of the block of buildings that are between Basyags Hall (Basinghall Street) and Colmon Street (Coleman Street), in a line due east from the Guildhall.

one of the richest of the religious foundations. It was suppressed by Henry VIII., July, 1531, and the property in Bassishaw Ward, on which stood the Masons' Hall, was sold in 1544 to Roger and Robert Taverner, who afterwards disposed of it to John Lany, of Cratfield, in Suffolk, who at the expiration of the lease of 99 years to the Masons Company, sold them the hall and ground for the sum of two hundred pounds.¹

In consequence of the Prior being their landlord, the Company from the first attached themselves to the Holy Trinity; and so late as 1665 a banner or streamer of the Holy Trinity was carried by them in their processions, and is mentioned in the inventory of the Company's goods in that year.

This banner may have borne a representation of the Holy Trinity as portrayed on the seal of the Priory.

In Dugdale's *Monasticon* a description of the only impression of the seal known to exist is thus described: "Attached to a deed without date, now in the chapter house at Westminster, is a seal of the Priory of the Holy Trinity, Aldgate, representing the Blessed Saviour seated on a rainbow, and having in his left hand a book resting on his knee, the other hand elevated. Round the seal is the following legend:

SIGILLV · ECL'IE · SCE · TRINITATIS · LVNDONIE."

It was the custom of the city gilds to have some patron saint on whose anniversary they all attended service at a certain church, frequently the one dedicated to the saint. With the Masons Com-

¹ The original deeds of 1463 and 1562 were in the Company's deed box in 1664. They were probably sold with other parchments, including the Grant of Arms (happily recovered), as "old and worthless rubbish." The Lease in question is described in 1665 as "A Lease from the Prior and Convent of the Holy Church of the Trinity within Aldgate London dated the 28 of May 1463 and in the third year of King Edward the Fourth to the Wardens of the Mistery of the Masons for 99 years from Midsummer before the date." The Company no doubt had a Prime Warden instead of a Master.

pany the Holy Trinity would no doubt take the place of a patron saint.

Concerning this connexion, we must not lose sight of the fact, that at this date there was a gild of the Holy Trinity of the city of London, which had been founded in the 48th year of the reign of Edward I. (1373). It was possibly the gild to which the Masons Company had attached themselves. This gild possessed a house known as Trinity Hall, near Aldersgate, and was connected with the church of St. Botolph, Aldersgate.

It may perhaps be concluded that the banner of the Holy Trinity possessed by the Company so late as 1665, related to *this* brotherhood, and *not* to the Priory at Aldgate, which had, as far as we know, no gild in connexion with its foundation.

It is of course impossible to say with certainty what were the ornaments upon the banner. Dugdale records the seal of the Priory at Aldgate as containing a figure of the Saviour seated on a rainbow with the Holy Scriptures resting on the knee, one hand elevated. This is an unusual symbol of the Trinity. What is generally seen upon the seals of religious houses dedicated to the Mystery, is a representation of the Godhead supporting the crucified Saviour, over whose head hovers a dove; and from a little volume, entitled *The Beehive of the Romishe Church*, p. 192, we find the following: "For the Trinity, Holy Church hath chosen to make the similitude of the Father, an olde man with a long gray beard: and for the sonne, a man hanging on the crosse: and for knowledge of the holie Ghost, a Dove." This book was printed in London in 1579.

There is yet *another* and still more curious representation of the Trinity, and one that would appeal with greater force to the Speculative Masons of the time, and which Hone describes in his *Ancient Mysteries*,¹ or miracle plays, as being most probably the symbol borne by this very gild.

¹ Printed in London, 1823.

It occurs in the Salisbury missal of 1534, and also in the arms of the Trinity Priory, at Ipswich, and may be described as a figure



SYMBOL OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

From the Salisbury Missal of 1534.

[Hone's "Ancient Mysteries."]

with a triune head, holding a triangle, subdivided again into three. In the centre of this triangle is the word *De'*; the three points of

the outer triangle contain the words PATER, FILIUS, and SPŪS SCTŪS in circles, each of these circles being connected with the word DE' by the word EST ; at the same time on each of the three sides of the outer triangle occur the words NON EST.

I have previously drawn attention to the fact that the word GOD has always been held in great reverence by the craft, and we may perhaps connect this symbol of the Trinity with our antient motto, "God is ovr gvide," and also assume that it was represented upon the banner borne before the Company in their pre-reformation civic processions.

^{1469.}
^{The City}
^{Watch.} From an early date the companies had to supply a certain number of armed men to attend at the city gates at night ; this body was termed "The Watch."

In a list of the companies, dated 1469, the Masons are returned as furnishing twenty men-at-arms, a proportion equal to the Salters and other large companies.

From what we gather, it is evident that previous to the Reformation the Masons were a Company of considerable importance in the city ; but with the downfall of the Church, the use of stone in ecclesiastical buildings was discontinued to a great extent, and consequently the Masons gradually receded from their prominent position to the rank of a lesser company, as in the reign of Henry VIII. they were classed No. 40 in the order of precedence.

^{Heraldry and}
^{the City.} During the brilliant wars of Edward III. heraldry attained its perfection, and was looked upon as a necessary adjunct to any degree of state, whether military or civil ; hence we find that at this period, so soon as a Company or Fellowship arrived at a position recognized by the civic authorities, or by incorporation, they petitioned the Court of Heralds for a grant of arms.

This was accomplished by representing the solidity¹ of the Fellowship, and its honourable position, to the King of Arms, who

¹ This was absolutely necessary when so many Gilds were in existence.

in consideration of certain fees, caused a patent to be made out, granting such armorial bearings as he deemed suitable.

The usual custom was to make use of the tools, or other objects connected with the particular trade, as part of the bearing or charges on the shield.

The Grant of
Arms in 1472.

The Masons Company having risen, as we have seen, to the front rank, and being represented by *six* members on the Common Council, it is not surprising that they are among *the very first of the Gilds* to obtain a grant of arms, namely in 1472.¹



THE MASONS' ARMS, 18TH CENTURY.

From early in the 17th century, until 1871, the Company used a coat, copied, no doubt, by the engravers from Stow's *Survey of*



STOW, 1633.

London, 1633, where the arms are thus represented—sable on a chevron, between three towers argent, a pair of compasses. Not-

¹ The earliest grant to a company was in 1439, to the Drapers Company.

withstanding that until the middle of the 18th century, the Company possessed the original grant of arms, which was subsequently lost with many other papers, it was not until 1871 that the correct blazon was forthcoming.

The fortunate discovery in that year of the original grant of arms settled the question at once, for by the blazon it was found that many of the published representations of the arms were wrong, and apparently no steps had ever been taken to verify them.

As the original grant is one of the earliest of such documents pertaining to a City Gild, I here give it in full :—



To alle Nobles and gentilles theise present
 Trēs beryng or seying William
 Hawkeslowe othir Wise
 called Clarenceur Kyng of
 Armes of the Sowthe marches
 of Englonde sendeth
 humble and due Recomenda-
 cion as apperteyneth for soo
 moche as the Hole Crafte
 and felawship of masons
 corogcowlsly meoved to ex-
 cercise and vse gentill and
 comendable guydyng in such
 laudable maner and fourme
 as may best sounde vnto
 gentrice by the Whiche they
 shal mowe wt goddis grace
 to atteigne vnto honoure &
 worship haue desired and
 praide me the saide Kyng of

Armes that 3 by the powre & auctorite by the Kyngs goode grace
 to me in that behalve comytted shuld denyse A Conysaunce of
 Armes for the saide Crafte and felawship which they and their
 successours myght boldly & vowably occupie chalenge and enfoie

for evermore wtoute eny preiudice or rebuke of eny estate or gentill of this Reame At the instaunce and request of whome I the saide Kyng of Armes takyng respecte and consideraciō vnto the goodly entent & disposiciō of the saide Crafte and felawship haue deuysed for them & theire successours thise Armes folowing that is to sey A feld of Sablys A Cheverōn siluer grailed thre Castellis of the same garnysshed wt dores and wyndows of the feld in the Cheverōn a Cumpas of Blak whiche Armes I of my saide powre and auctorite haue appoynted yevyn and graunte to and for the saide Crafte and felawship and theire successours and by theise my present lres appoynte yeve and graunte vnto them the same To haue chalenge occupie and enioie wtoute eny preiudice or empechement for euermore In witnesse wherof I the saide Kyng of Armes to theise presents haue sette my seale of Armes with my signe Mannell Vevyn at lōdon the yere of the Reigne of Kyng Edward the fourthe affir the Conquest the xijth

Clarenssevr Kyng of armes

¶ A B iiii^l ij

*I thomas benolt alias clarenceux
king at armes of the south east
and west partyes of this
Realme of England by the
Kings full power vnder his
lres patentes to my Onely
gyven. Conferme & Ratefie
this armes in the margen
herin depict Before gyven
by my predesessur clarencieux.
In wytnes therof I have signed
this patent w^t my Hande the
xijth yere of o^r Souuerain lord*

[Seal Band]
[Seal Missing]

King Henry the viijth.

Per my Clarencieux¹ king at armes T B.

¹ The original document bears an old endorsement of no importance, only a few words of which can now be read. It simply records that the grant was made by Clarencieux, King of Arms.

On the "flap" is the following :—

Entered in the visitacon of London

made 1634

Henry St george : Richmond.

There is no motto mentioned, but Maitland gives, in 1756, the motto as used up to within the last few months,¹ "In the Lord is all our trust"; taken probably from the early 17th century MS. authority in the British Museum, and from which a plate of the Masons' Arms is here given.

As I have before stated in the introduction, the old motto was, "God is ovr Gvide," and it is so given on the tomb of William Kerwin, in St. Helen's Church, Bishopsgate.

The motto, "In the Lord is all our trust," is never found before the year 1600, and as the change in the Arms must have taken place about this date, there is little doubt that with it was associated that form of the old gild motto.

The fact that a peculiar gild tradition was acknowledged by all the Masons Companies, whether in London, Edinburgh, Chester, Oxford, York, or elsewhere, makes the motto, "God is our Guide," almost a necessity, seeing that the Deity is always referred to as God in all the old MS. Constitutions.

The word Lord is used, but only in the sense of some local magnate.

Thus we find the following lines in the Halliwell poem² :—

"Att thys semblé were Poyntes-y-ordeynt
Of Grete Lordys and Mastrys also."

Here we have a meeting of Master Masons with the chief men of the district, probably the employers.

Consequently to a pre-reformation Mason, "In the Lord is all

¹ The Company in 1894 resumed the old motto of "God is ovr Gvide."

² Brit. Mus., Reg. 17, A 1.

our strength," might easily have appeared, "In our employer is all our strength."

Further that the word God was of importance to the craft is



[From the British Museum, Harl. MS., 6,860, date circa 1610.]

shown by the ordinances drawn up in 1462 for the guidance of the German Masons at Torgau, in Saxony.¹

¹ C. L. Stieglitz, *Über die Kirche der Heiligen Kunigunde zu Rochlitz.*

Rule 107 ordains that whenever a fellow shall enter a lodge of Masons for the first time he is to greet them thus,—

“God greet ye, God guide ye, God reward ye,” etc., etc.

The Cooke MS. in the British Museum, add. MS. 23,198, *circa* 1450. This MS., written for a gild of English Masons and containing their rules, begins thus, “Thanks be to God our Glorious Fader.”

The word Lord as indicating the *employer* is demonstrated in the Halliwell poem, when the fifteen articles for the Master Mason are recited, line 162.

“That the mayster do the Lord no pregedysse
To take of the Lord, for hyse prentyse,
Also muche as hys felows don, etc., etc.”

The word “Lord” gradually took the place of the word God soon after the Reformation, when the Puritan element was in the ascendant. Thus we see the introduction of the Lord’s Day for Sunday, Lord Almighty for the Deity, etc., etc.

Therefore we cannot associate the old Coat of Arms with any other motto than “GOD IS OVR GVIDE.”

The discovery of the grant of arms occurred in 1871, as before stated, and as the event was one of great antiquarian interest, the then Master, H. H. Burnell, Esq., F.S.A., brought the matter before the Society of Antiquaries, and at a meeting held at Somerset House, Feb. 15, 1872, Mr. Burnell exhibited a photo-lithograph of the original grant of arms, dated 12 Edward IV., 1472.

He said: “The original, which had long been lost sight of, was recovered thus:—In the month of October last (1871), a Mr. Ebenezer West, of 11, S. James’ Walk, Clerkenwell, calling himself an antiquarian collector, and who had become possessed of it with other parchments, offered it for sale at the British Museum. The authorities declined to give his price, but communicated with the

The Recovery
of a lost
Document
in 1871.

clerk of the Masons Company, as did Mr. West. The Court of the Masons Company ultimately bought the document, and directed that it should be presented to the British Museum, on condition that they should be allowed access to it at all reasonable times, and further that they should be furnished with a certain number of lithographic copies. Hence, though I should have much preferred it, I am prevented from exhibiting the original, which has the band of the seal attached, but the seal itself is gone."

"I have prepared a transcript to facilitate the reading of it. All seems fairly intelligible, except the signs below the signature of Wm. Hawkeslowe, which appears to represent some sum of money, and a kind of monogram following that of Thos. Benolt, which perhaps might be T. B. ; the B. however seems to come first."

In the discussion that followed, Mr. C. S. Percival, F.S.A., said : "This was a very early instance of grants of arms to corporate bodies" ; and quoted that of the Ironmongers Company, which was slightly anterior to this ; and that he believed that to be the earliest known.¹ The signs under the signature of Clarencieux, King of Arms, were discussed without any conclusion being arrived at, some suggesting that they meant 5 marks and 2 pence, the fee paid to the herald, others that it was a date of some intermediate exhibit, perhaps 1522.

When in 1893 a collotype facsimile was made for this work, Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., and the writer carefully transcribed the document, and came to the conclusion that without doubt the monogram in question was W.H., for William Hawkslowe, and that the signs following were *iiiiij^l ij*, or five pounds two shillings, being probably the fee paid.

An important point in the document is that only one King of

¹ Guillim, in the *Display of Heraldry*, gives the following dates of grants of Arms to Livery Companies : The Drapers, 1439 ; The Ironmongers, 1455 ; the Tallow Chandlers, 1456 ; the Brewers, 1468 ; and the Masons, 1472. All the grants to other Companies are of later date.

Arms (Clarencieux) was necessary to grant the arms, and this the King of the "Southe Marches," showing that it was the London Company alone to whom the arms were granted, and *not* to the gilds of Masons all over the Kingdom; in which case "Norroy," King of Arms for the North Marches, would have had to sign this grant, as The Academie of Armory, 1688. he would have been named also. This is very important, as we find, in 1688, Randle Holme, who was herald and deputy for "Garter," King of Arms, published his *Academie of Armory*. On page 393 he thus draws attention to the Masons Company: "I cannot but honor the Fellowship of the Masons because of its antiquity; and the more, as being [myself] a Member of that Society called Free-masons."¹



[From R. Holme's MS.]

And in *Harleian MS.* 5,955, are a number of engraved plates intended for the second volume of his *Academie of Armory*, which was not completed. On one of these is a curious representation of the Arms of the Masons or ffreemasons, and the blazon is given in *Harleian MS.* 2035, p. 56, thus: "Masons, or ffree masons, S on a chevron betw. 3 Towers A, a paire of compasses extended S (of old the Towers were triple towered), the crest, on a wreath, a Tower A. The Escochion is cotized with two columns of the Corinthion order Or, the motto is, 'In the Lord is all our trust.'"

It is only in R. Holme's MS. that any mention is made of columns being in any way connected with the Masons' Arms. When the Society of Freemasons at a later period used the Masons'

¹ Randle Holme was a member of a Lodge of Freemasons at Chester.

Arms, they in some instances placed two beavers as supporters, which have been supposed to symbolise builders in nature.

In Guillim's *Display of Heraldry*, sixth ed., the arms are thus blazoned: Azure on a chevron between three castles Argent, a pair of compasses somewhat extended of the first. The engraving of the Arms shows the castles as towers similar to those in Stowe's woodcut. An earlier edition of Guillim contains the arms of the City Companies, and they are taken from the *Analogia Honorum*,



THE MASONS' ARMS ON AN INCISED STONE BUILT IN THE WALL OF A HOUSE IN BULL STREET, SWINDON, WILTS.

[“*Transactions of Lodge Quatuor Coronati*,” vol. v., pt. 1.]

by Captain John Logan, of 1677. Upon what supposed authority Logan states the field to be blue instead of black I have been unable to discover, but he appears to have been the first to so blazon the arms.

An azure field is to be found on some documents still used by the Company, taken probably from *Gwyllim's Display*, this work for many years being looked upon as the best authority.

The same colour, as well as several others, no doubt adopted

as differences, were used by other companies of Masons and the Lodges of Freemasons up to the year 1813.

In the Arms on the two old MS. constitutions, dated 1686,¹ the Arms are correctly given so far as a black field, but the chevron is plain and the castles are towers.

Upon the seal of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons the field is red, a colour adopted by one division of the English Freemasons in the early part of the eighteenth century.

In a few cases we find a *white* shield, notably on the certificates issued by the Company, early in the present century, to its freemen ; and curiously the chevron in this case is shown to be *Or*.

The white field is often seen on china ware of the 18th century, such as mugs and jugs, of Liverpool manufacture, made for members of the society. There is also, in the British Museum, a Worcester china mug, with a printed design bearing the Arms of the Company, with the field divided per chevron—Argent *above*, and Sable *below*. The mark on the mug is the open crescent.

The principal charge, the chevron, was described and pictured as engrailed in the original grant of 1472, and is correctly represented on the tomb of Kerwin, in St. Helen's Church, dated 1594.

However, early in the next century we find Stow giving the Arms as Sable, with a plain Chevron, and so the Arms continued to be shown, as regards the Chevron, on all tombs and in book illustrations, down to the year 1791, when a new mace head was presented to the Company. On this the shield has the old engrailed chevron, but curiously enough the field is engraved with horizontal lines denoting *blue* as the colour of the ground. Why the change in the chevron was made has not yet been satisfactorily elucidated. Perhaps the esoteric division of the Company desired, early in the

¹ Lawrence Dermott, writing in 1764 (*Ahiman Rezon*, p. xxxi.), concerning the Freemasons Society of 1717, says : " Amongst other things they seized on the Stone Masons Arms, which that good-natured Company has permitted them to wear to this day."

seventeenth century, to symbolise the square, and a plain chevron was to their mind preferable to an engrailed one. My friend, W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., who has made Masonic heraldry a study, is of opinion that when Stow¹ was collecting materials for his history of London, he had the description of the Company given him in a careless manner, or from an incorrect example, and did not trouble himself to properly authenticate the information, and further that the



ARMS OF THE MASONS COMPANY.

[From a Worcester China Mug in the British Museum.]

mistake having been once made, it was continued by latter heraldic writers, who copied one another, *ad infinitum*.

As regards the plain towers taking the place of the ancient castles, they were, no doubt, meant to represent castles by the engraver, who used them for either charge; indeed, so late as Berry's *Encyclopædia*, we find this the case, as he describes the arms as Sable on a chevron between three *Towers* Argent, a pair of compasses of the first; crest, on a wreath a *Castle*, as in the arms; evidently he thought the words were interchangeable, consequently

¹ It is perhaps interesting to note that the Carpenters Company have preserved the engrailed chevron borne in their arms, granted in 1466, to the present day, it being properly represented by Stow, in 1633.

we find in most cases the towers taking the place of the old castles, being much easier to engrave.

Randle Holme, however, in 1688, though he makes no reference to the engrailed chevron having been changed to a plain one, draws attention to the fact that "of old the towers were triple towered," and in the case of the silver head of the Company's mace, made in



STONE OVER A FIREPLACE IN PETTY HALL, ORTON, CO. WESTMORELAND.

[It is evident that it is intended to represent the Masons' Arms.]

1791, care has been taken to show three *castles*. Although not an exact copy of those given in the original grant yet they favourably compare with the arms of the Company preserved in the MS. collection¹ of the bearings of the City Companies now in the British Museum.

¹ *Vide* page 87.

After careful consideration I cannot come to any other conclusion than that, in consequence of an error on the part of "honest John Stow," the correct *drawing* of the Masons' Arms, has, until quite lately, been lost to view, and a coat, very different from the original



[From the British Museum, Harl. MS., 472, date circa 1640.]

as granted to the fellowship in 1472, has been constantly used and described, frequently varying according to the taste of the herald or engraver.

Among the *Harleian MSS.* in the British Museum are several

volumes containing the arms of the City Companies, dating from the first half of the 17th century; in one *Harl. MS.*, 6860, we see an engrailed chevron between three elaborate castles, in the other *Harl. MS.*, 472, we find a plain chevron between three towers. I have been so far unable to gather any particulars as to the authority for the different blazon. The two facsimiles given on pages 87 and 95 are examples of this curious error.

Happily the Company to-day have the original grant of 1472 to guide them in all matters heraldic. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of mystery yet to be cleared up as to why they adopted a different coat to the original grant.

**A Livery
in 1481.**

The custom of wearing a livery or distinguishing dress was, as we have seen, regulated by statutes in 1377, 1396, and in 1405, and in 1468 these statutes were again confirmed; and we find that although many companies existed by licence from the Court of Aldermen, yet to wear livery it was necessary to obtain enfranchisement from the monarch, and this was the next best thing to a charter of incorporation.¹

A document discovered in the Guildhall library,² states that the Masons Company obtained permission to wear a clothing in the year 1481.

This document is a MS. note, made in 1724 by the clerk to the Company in a parliamentary return concerning its origin. It is evident that in his time there were books existing which are now lost,³ and as the MS. is of great importance to the Company as evidence of enfranchisement, I give it in full.

¹ A costly luxury.

² This document was discovered by Mr. F. Mackney, in October, 1892, when searching for information at the request of the writer.

³ As is also the "antient book wrote on parchment," containing 113 annals of the antiquity, rise, and progress of the art and mysteries of masonry, mentioned by Sir F. Palgrave in the *Edinburgh Magazine*, 1839, as being formerly in the possession of the Masons Company. See "Introduction."

EX LETTER BOOK L. [GUILDHALL.]

Fos. 165-167
Ordinacio
Lathancorum

15th Oct. 21 Edward 4. (A.D. 1481). Came good men of the Art or Mistery of Masons of the City of London into the Court of the Lord the King in the Chamber of the Guildhall, before the Mayor and Aldermen, and prayed that certain Articles for the better regulation of the Mistery might be approved, which Articles were to the following effect :—

Election of
Wardens.

“ That freemen of the said Craft, Mistery, or Science
“ shall, on the Feast of the Holy Trinity or within ten
“ days of the same, assemble together in some suitable
“ place within the City and choose two of themselves,
“ being householders, to be Wardens of the Craft for the
“ two years next ensuing, the said new Wardens being
“ presented by the old Wardens, and four or six other
“ honest persons of the Craft for approval and sworn in
“ Chamber of Guildhall.

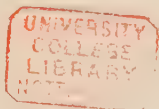
“ That all money, Jewels, goods, and necessities
“ belonging to the Fellowship be delivered to the new
“ Wardens, and an account rendered.

Fine.

“ That a freeman who has been duly elected Warden
“ and refuses to take office be brought before the Mayor
“ or the Chamberlain as a rebel against the fellowship
“ and forfeit the sum of 40s. for his disobedience.

The Livery.

“ That once in every three years the members be clad
“ in a livery at the discretion of six honest persons or
“ more of the said Craft such as the Wardens and
“ Fellowship shall appoint thereto, and that everyone
“ admitted to the livery, and able to bear the charge
“ thereof, refusing to take it or wear it, be liable to
“ forfeit the sum of 6s. 8d.



Mass at
Christchurch
Aldgate.

“ That once in every two years they attend Mass at
“ Christchurch within Aldgate, clad in their livery, and
“ each make offering of one penny; and shall after-
“ wards go to their dinner or recreation at a place
“ appointed, accompanied by their wives if they will.

The Dinner.

“ Each member to pay 12 pence for his own dinner,
“ and 8 pence for his wife’s dinner if present. Anyone
“ absenting himself from the said Mass, offering, or
“ dinner, without reasonable cause, to forfeit 3s. 4d.

“ Provided always that the dinner be kept the year
“ of the election of the new Wardens, and the ‘Clothing’
“ given the following year.

“ That every freeman of the Craft shall attend at
“ Christchurch on the Feast of Quatnor Coronati (8 Nov.)
“ to hear Mass under the penalty of 12 pence.

“ That certain days be kept for payment of
“ Quarterages, viz., 3 pence a quarter, an extra payment
“ of 2 pence being made towards any recreation provided
“ on those days by the Wardens. Those absenting
“ themselves without reasonable excuse to be liable to
“ forfeiture of 12 pence.

“ No one to be admitted into the freedom of the
“ Craft by the Wardens until examined and proved
“ ‘connyng’ therein under penalty of 40s. Servants and
“ apprentices not to be enticed away from their Masters.
“ Brothers of the Craft not to rebuke or revile the
“ Wardens or each other. Lastly, the Wardens to have
“ the right to search, and the oversight and correction of
“ all manner of work appertaining to the science of
“ Masons within the City and Suburbs, in conjunction
“ with an officer of the Mayor assigned to them for the
“ purpose.

“ Petition granted.”

EXTRACT FROM THE LONDON COMPANIES MSS., GUILDHALL.
THE MASONS COMPANY.¹

The Company
Enfranchised
by King
Edward IV.
October 15th,
1481.

"That upon searching the Books of the said Company I do find a Book² intituled, 'Constitutions made and granted to the fellowship of the Free Masons enfranchised within this Honourable City of London in the time of John Brown, Mayor of the

City in the one and twentieth year of the reign of King Edward the fourth after the conquest 15th day of October 1481.'—In which among other things is contained as followeth. Alsoe that the persons of the same craft mistery or science, from henceforward once in every three years to be cladd in one clothing convenient to their powers and degrees, to be ordained for by the wardens of the same craft mistery or science for the time being, by the advice and assent of the said six honest persons, or more of the said craft as the said wardens and fellowship will appoint thereunto; and that every person of the same craft such as shall be admitted into the said clothing by the said wardens by the advice aforesaid and be of power to wear it and pay, therefore shall take the said clothing of the said wardens to wear it at such time as shall be requisite for the honesty of the fellowship of the said craft, and pay the said wardens therefore after such price and at such time as by the said wardens with the advice aforesaid it shall be set and appointed unto, and that no person enfranchised of the said craft, appointed to take and wear the said livery and may bear the charge thereof, refuse to take it, or to wear it, unless he then otherwise agree with the said Wardens; therefore according to right reason and good conscience and whoso doth contrary of this ordinance shall forfeit as often as he doth so and be duly convict thereof, six shillings and eight pence to be levied directed and applied in manner and forme aforesaid; and I do humbly certifie that the present number of the said Livery is sixty and three.

"MILES MAN."³

"9th day of February 1724/5."

1484. A commission was this year issued by Richard III. to Thomas Daniel, surveyor of the king's works, to take and seize as many masons, bricklayers, and others for the hasty expedition of the king's works within the Tower of London and Westminster Abbey.⁴

¹ *London Companies MS.*, No. 108, vol. i., p. 38, Guildhall Library.

² This *Book of Constitutions* is mentioned in two inventories of the company's goods in 1665 and 1676.

³ Clerk to the Company.

⁴ Jupp, *Hist. of Carpenters Company*, p. 184.

The "Cooke"
MS., 1480.
Containing
the Masons'
Legend of the
Foundation
of Geometry
by Euclid.

In the British Museum there is a manuscript¹ written about 1480; by whom or for whom it was originally penned, there is no means of ascertaining, but from the style it may be conjectured to have belonged to some master mason of the "Society of Masons," and to have been used in assemblies of masons as a text-book of the fraternity; it is similar to the MS. mentioned before, and contains the same legend as to the origin of the mason's craft.

he wyth well^l p^r hand craft
had the prartyke of p^r sci-
ens of Gemetry so well
as malons wherfore he
drene hym^{to} to cell^r and ler-
nyd prartyke of p^r sciens
to his huculatyf. ffor of huc-
ulatyfe he was a mast^r
and he lobyd well^l ma-
sonry and malons And
he brome a malon hym
selfe. And he gaf hem charge
and names as hit is now
vshyd in Englonde. and in

EXTRACT FROM THE COOKE MS., BRIT. MUS.

It begins by offering thanks to "God our Glorious Fader," and then rehearses the legend of Euclid and the invention of geometry in Egypt; special mention being first made of Adam, Noah, the

¹ Add MS. 23,198 Brit. Mus., see *ante*, p. 15. It was published in London, 1861, edited by Mr. Mathew Cooke. A MS. variant of this old document, with the arms of the Masons Company, dated 1687, came to light in 1890, and was acquired by Mr. W. Watson of Leeds for Mr. Thos. Tew, who presented it to the library of the Masonic Province of West Yorkshire; it is known as the William Watson Roll. Other MSS. also bear the arms, for example that in the possession of Mr. Papworth.

Flood, and two pillars, on which were written the antient sciences and arts, also Solomon and the Temple, then the coming of the craft into Europe, particularly France and England. King Athelstan is quoted as a friend to the craft, and also that he ordained congregations of the masons to be held annually or triennially, also that he gave them charges that are now used in England; and further notice is given that :—

Extract from
the "Cooke"
MS. "Whan the Mast^r, and ye fellows be for warned ben y come to such co'gregacons, if nede be ye schereffe of ye contre or the Mayor of ye Cyte or Aldermen of ye towne in wyche the congregaceons ys holde, schall be felaw and sociat to ye Mast^r of the co'gregaceon, in helpe of h'y ayenst rebelles and upberyng ye rygt of ye reme."

From this extract we gather that the mayor of the city or sheriff of the county was to be appealed to, if necessary, by the master mason who presided over this assembly of masons in order to protect them against disturbance from the οἱ πολλοί of the district; and also to be able to answer for the innocence of the proceedings if called upon to do so by the Crown.

The MS.¹ quotes as authorities for the various statements it contains, the Bybill, and also the *Policronico*, a cronycle p'uyd [proved]. This *Policronico* was a very early universal history, and was translated and printed by Caxton in 1482 with this description: "Polychronicon emprynted and sette in form by me William Caxton² and a lytel embelyshed."

In the 14th and 15th centuries Higden's *Polychronicon* was the standard work on general history, and was, of course, well known to the monks, who were possibly the authors of the masonic manuscript.

From this we gather that the "Society" of Masons with its secret symbolical language, which had come into this country with

¹ See account of this MS., by G. W. Speth, in the Reprints of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, vol. ii., also Cooke's work on the MS.

² The book by Caxton is very scarce. The original was written by Ralph Higden, a monk, about 1350.

Christianity and the necessity for stone buildings, was still kept together by its members. From time to time they met in congress in various parts of the kingdom; the master masons of the county gilds would attend these assemblies in person, and assist in framing regulations for the well-being and government of the trade.

The London Company, as we have seen, was on a different footing altogether from the "Society"; yet it is most probable that the members of the livery and court of assistants were in many instances also members of the Society. Every body of masons would have a lodge or meeting-room at every large building in progress in London; at Westminster, for instance, and at other places, especially when under the wing of the wealthy ecclesiastical powers.¹

1495. This year a statute² was passed once again regulating the wages of labourers and artizans, and it is interesting inasmuch as the word freemason here occurs for the first time in the statutes of the realm.

The wages fixed were as follows:—

A freemason, master carpenter, and rough mason were to take per day 4*d.* with meals, and 6*d.* without, between Easter and Michaelmas, and during the rest of the year 3*d.* and 5*d.* respectively. Master masons and master carpenters in charge of work, and having six men under them, were to receive 5*d.* with meals, or 7*d.* without. The penalty for taking more was 20*s.*, and for giving more, 40*s.* Work began at 5 a.m. during the summer half-year.

1501. November. The marriage of Prince Arthur with Katherine of Aragon was observed with great pomp by the citizens of London. The following extract is from a MS.

¹ Cardinal Langham, Archbishop of Canterbury (whose bust was carved by Henry Yevele), left by his will, for the Works at Westminster Abbey, a sum equal to £160,000 of our money. We can, therefore, understand the wealth of mediæval churches, when prelates were able to devise such sums to the fabric.

² 2 Hen. VII. cxxii. (1426). See Gould for a long account of these statutes carefully collated and arranged in order.

preserved in Herald's College¹ concerning the progress of the princess through London after her landing.

The Companies stand within their "Rails."

"Receypt of ye Ladie Katerine daur^r unto Phardinand the Kyng of Espayen yowen in mar goinet to Pri. Arthure ye King of Englands sonne Hen. VII in ye xvii yere of his reigne.

The vith Chaptre of the Ordre of the Citie of Lond for the receyte of the Princesse.

The Mayer Aldre and Sheryvys w^t other consvators concillors, and ayders of the citie of Lond goe ordrely w^t good polesye hade p^rvyd the saide Citie that y^e felawschippis of every crafte shulde all things leved aparte, all in thier severall liverys and hodys of their maner be p^rsent at the comyng of this moost excellent Princes. And for y^e saide ^{er}reate nombre of craftes were barrys made in every sid of y^e waye frō the middys of Grace churche's strete unto y^e trynge of y^e churchyarde of Pawles that y^e felawschippis of ev^ry crafte might from the comers and comon people have their space and ease, and also be seene."

Prince Arthur died the following April at Ludlow Castle, Herefordshire, and was buried at Worcester, when a small private chapel was erected to his memory.

The Livery in 1501.

In the city records there occurs a list of the "names of the companies of the city which have livery, with the number of each company, in the time of John Shaa Mayor." [1501-2.]

Among these the Masons Company, No. 41 on the list, possessed eleven members on the livery or clothing; doubtless the majority of the members were to be found in the yeomanry division, or freemen, only.

1509.

The Coronation of Henry VIII. and Katherine of Aragon.

These records also give particulars of "the order of the crafts, how they shall stand when the king and queen [Henry VIII. and Katherine of Aragon] pass by towards their coronation."

The space allowed to the masons, No. 42 on the list, for their

¹ Printed in the Antiquarian Repertory.



rails, was five yards. According to Stow, the king and queen having come from Greenwich to the Tower on June 21st, 1509, set out on their journey through the city on the 24th of June, a Saturday, to Westminster, where on the following day they were crowned.

Wages again regulated. According to Gould,¹ the statute of 1495 was only in force one year, consequently the wages rose again within a short period.

In 1514 a re-enactment of this statute was passed regulating wages to the former scale.

In 1515 the freemasons, rough masons, carpenters, and other artificers "wythin the citie of London," presented a humble "pety-cyon" for the repeal of this enactment, and in consideration of the heavy expenses to which they were subjected, it was enacted, that except when employed on the king's works, they might take the same wages they were wont to receive before the statute of 1514 was passed.

Doubtless, were the records of the Company in existence, they would throw considerable light not only on the subject of these statutes, but also on the petitions requesting their repeal.

The Reformation, 1530, and the New Learning. We are now fast approaching the time when ecclesiastical power in this country received a shock, from which it never recovered; namely, the Reformation of the Anglican Church, and the dissolution of the monasteries. With the fall of these bodies, Gothic architecture in this country came to an end, as with the coming of the "new learning," and the re-introduction of the study of Greek and the classics generally, the symbolical masonry, as practised during the period of the Gothic style, under the influence of the clergy, gave place to an imitation of the older styles of Greek and Roman architecture, which was followed by a period of transition known as the Renaissance.

The last great work of the Gothic masons is perhaps their finest

¹ Gould's *Hist. of Freemasonry*, "Statutes of Labourers."

achievement, namely the chapel of Henry VII., at Westminster, The fan-tracery, with its bosses, pendants, and armorial cognizances ; the walls, covered with sunken panels, with feathered mouldings ; the profusion of niches, statues, escutcheons, and other heraldic and symbolical decorations, combine, perhaps, to form the greatest architectural success of the London masons.

All this ecclesiastical grandeur was, however, to undergo a change, and many and great were the monastic establishments destined to destruction.

Henry VIII., having at his right hand a man without a conscience,¹ was easily led to commit wholesale plunder to an enormous extent.

In 1536, the Vicar-General¹ was charged to send a body of Commissioners to all the monasteries ; commencing with the smaller ones. By means of subtle diplomacy, he overthrew in a few years the work of generations.

1536.

No sooner had the monks been compelled to quit their quarters, than the Commissioners took possession ; they sold the lead from the roofs, the bells, the glass, and in fact all valuables ; then they often fired the buildings and left their smoking walls to serve as a quarry for the neighbourhood !!²

With the destruction of these old establishments, all their local influence was stamped out ; and with it vanished the gild of mediæval masonry that had so long been fostered by the monks.

This great reform did not affect the Masons Company of London ; it is quite possible that, as citizens, they hailed the fall of the religious bodies with very little emotion, even though fearing doubtless that this wholesale plunder might at length touch the Corporation ; indeed the gilds all over the country, where not actually directing or protecting industries, were demolished, and their property confiscated with that of the other religious bodies.

¹ Thomas Cromwell.

² *Hist. of England*, S. R. Gardiner.

In the case of the London gilds, whatever property had been left by deceased members for the maintenance of "chauntries" and "obits" was confiscated, but in most cases the companies were allowed to repurchase the same by "crown grants" made in the reigns of Edward VI. and James I.¹

Although Henry has always been looked upon as a tyrant, yet we find that before commencing the general dissolution of religious corporations, he extracted an Act from the Parliament authorizing the proceedings. And this Parliament was elected in 1531.

1537. Among the records preserved in the Chapter House at Westminster, are certain documents entitled "Tow-chinge the P'limente, A.D. 1537." They are polling lists of London voters, and contain "The Companies of all ye Craftes or Mysteries in Lond.," with a list of their members who were entitled to vote.

1537. Among them is that of the masons, now for the first time called "ffree Masons."²

The Company of ffree Masons.

Robert Lynke.

George Symson.

M^r Elmer.

Thomas Newell.

John Orger.

Thomas West.

William Prybeck.

Gabrell Oaldham.

¹ *Report of the City of London Livery Companies Commission*, 1884, vol. i. p. 40.

² The company from now is termed "The freemasons" until 1656. It may be that at this time the secret symbolism and legends of the antient Fraternities, which had been dispersed with the fall of the monasteries, became centred in the city Corporation of Masons; and it is curious to notice that the term Free-mason was dropped about the time that speculative masonry began again to be practised by non-operatives.

Henry Pesemedé.
William Johnson.
William Ashton.
John Humphrey.
William Chamberlain.
Robert Sleaford.
Richard Mydleton.
Thomas Barker.
Henry Mercer.
Robert Smythe.
Gilbert Borassain or Borssam.
John Paskyn.
John Howard.
William Rigeway.
John Richardson.
John Corbett.
Thomas Wilde.
ffrances Boone.
William Holmes.
Thomas Blomefeld.
Robert Hawte.
Edmond Raud.
Thomas Hawys.
Symon Kyngsfeld.
John Charter.
Richard Wolsham.
Thomas Matson.
Lewis Tucker.
Robert Prybek.

With the fall of the country masons' gilds, the "Society of Masons," was doubtless in difficulty to know in what manner their symbolical language should be perpetuated, and there can be little

doubt that the London members, who would of necessity be also members of the Masons Company, would from time to time hold a lodge in the hall of the Company in order to keep the members together, and also to initiate new members into their fraternity. That something of this sort must have been done is evident, as about a hundred years later we find the Speculative Masons again in evidence,¹ and so late as 1685 it is recorded that a lodge of the

1538. "Society" was held at the Masons' Hall, Basinghall Street.

Numerous names are mentioned, some of whom were members of the company, whereas others were not;² but this I will leave until we arrive at the date in our chronicle, when it will receive attention.

Order of Pre-
cedence, temp.
Henry VIII.

In the reign of Henry VIII. the order of the precedence of the companies was settled. The masons were placed thirty-third on the list, between the curriers and the plumbers. The following particulars concerning the coronation of Anne Bulleyn, second wife of Henry VIII., on June 1st, 1533, illustrates the reason for settling this precedence at this time.

CORONATION ³ OF QUEEN ANNE, WIFE OF HENRY VIII.

A Common Council was called, and commandment given to the Haberdashers of which the Maior was, that they should prepare barges and sett up all such seemly banners and bannerettes as they had in the Halles of the Companies, and every barge to have minstrels and great preparation to be made for all things necessary for such a noble triumph. After that the Maior and his brethren were in their barge, and seeing that the Companies to the number of 50 in their barges were ready to waite upon them, they gave commandment to them that their barges should keep apart to twice the length of the barge, and in every barge two officers to call on them to keep their order. And next to the Maior, followed his fellowship the Haberdashers,

¹ Under the title of Accepted Masons they are mentioned in the Company's books in the year 1631.

² About 1682 and earlier, many persons joined the society who were in no way connected with the trade.

³ *Antiquarian Repertory*, vol. ii. p. 232.

next the Mercers, then the Grocers, and so every Companie in his order, and last of all, the Maior and Sheriffs officers, every companie having melodie in their barge by themselves, and goodly garnished with banners, and some covered with silke, and with erras which was a goodlie sight to behold, and in this order the Companies rowed to Greenwich, the Maior coming last, as they go to Pauls at Christmasse.

Before taking leave of the "Country" Masons' Gild, it will be interesting to look into the rules which governed their society.

Unfortunately, only two manuscripts of a date previous to the 16th century¹ are at present known to exist, treating of the fraternity of mediæval masons in England; and these, as we have seen, contain only the traditional history of the craft, very little information being given of the rules, particularly those affecting the *travelling* mason, who would lead the roving life necessary for one following the craft; as, unless attached to a religious establishment, the finishing of one church or other edifice would mean journeying on until employment was obtained on a fresh work, and so on from one district to another.

Happily, however, the German masons have left behind them the rules which governed the Steinmetzen² Gild of Strasbourg, in 1459; and as this was a similar fraternity, their rules would doubtless be very much alike.

From these constitutions, which were drawn up at Regensburg, in 1459, I have extracted the following items, which would probably apply to the travelling masons of England as well as to those on the Continent.

THE CONSTITUTIONS OF STRASBURG, 1459.

THE STEINMETZEN.

Recites.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and

¹ The *Halliwell MS.* poem and the *Cooke MS.*, ante, pp. 41-46 and 98-99.

² Steinmetzen, *i.e.* stone-measurers, or stone-carvers, equivalent to the free-stone masons, or free masons, of England—those who possessed geometrical knowledge, etc., etc.

of our Gracious Mother Mary, and also of her blessed servants, the holy four crowned martyrs,¹ &c., &c.

Item. Whoever of his own free will desires to enter into this fraternity shall promise to keep all the points and articles ;² for then only can he be of our craft.

Item. No Workman nor Master nor Parlirer³ nor fellow craft shall instruct any one whosoever, who is not of our craft, in any part, if he has not in his day practised Masonry.

Item. No craftsman nor Master shall take money from a fellow for teaching or instructing him in anything belonging to Masonry, nor shall any Parlirer or Fellow-craft instruct anyone for money sake, but if one wishes to instruct the other, *they* may do so mutually or for Fraternal affection.

Item. No craftsman or Master shall be received in the Fraternity who goes not yearly to the Holy Communion, or who keeps not Christian discipline, &c., &c.

Item. When a travelling fellow craft desires to travel farther, he shall part from His Master and from the Lodge in such wise as to be indebted to no one, as is meet and proper.

Item. A travelling fellow in whatever Lodge he may be employed shall be obedient to his Master and to the Parlirer, according to the rule and ancient usage of masonry : and shall also keep all the regulations and privileges which are of ancient usage in the said Lodge.

Item. A Fellow who has travelled, and is practiced in Masonry, and who is of this fraternity, who wishes to serve a craftsman on a portion of the work, shall not be accepted for a less term than two years.⁴

Item. A travelling fellow shall make no application for employment but to the master of the work or Parlirer.

These extracts⁵ from the Strasburg Steinmetzen Gild are very

¹ The *Quatuor Coronati*.

² See the early English poem concerning fifteen points and fifteen articles, *ante* p. 26.

³ Warden.

⁴ To prevent constant change of workmen.

⁵ Taken from Kenning's *Cyclopædia of Freemasonry*. Edited by the Rev.

valuable to the student of the masons' craft in England, as giving rules for the travelling fellow, who in England assisted to raise those noble cathedrals and magnificent churches which were erected during the 13th, 14th, and 15th centuries. It is more than probable that among these travelling craftsmen there would be some who looked upon Strasburg as their headquarters, whence they originally started on their long (sometimes life-long) journeys.

That these German Steinmetzen were fully acquainted with the biblical tradition concerning the masons' craft from a very early date, may be inferred from two pillars that are to be seen in the cathedral of Wurzburg, Bavaria, formerly the capital of Lower Franconia.

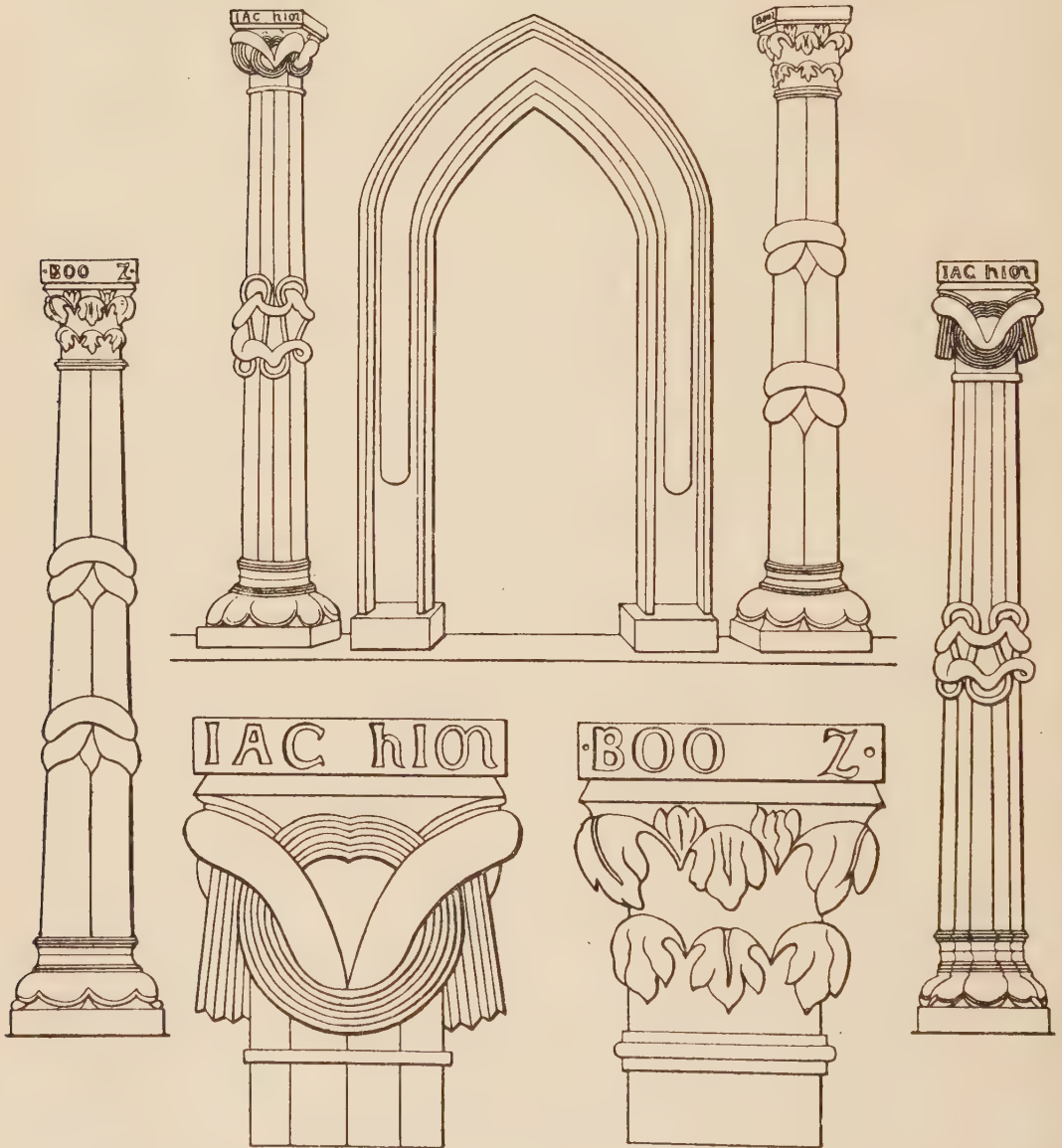
These pillars, which represent those that stood in front of the porch of Solomon's Temple, are of great antiquity and curious detail. Stieglitz, in his work on *Ancient German Architecture*,¹ gives an illustration of these columns as they are now standing, and dates them from the time of the construction of the old cathedral in the 11th century. He further says that they were originally situated, like the brazen columns of Solomon's Temple, on either side of the porch—Jachin on the right, and Boaz on the left; but at the present day they are placed in an inverse position, within the body of the cathedral, not far from the main entrance, and on either side of a Gothic doorway leading to a small vaulted chamber. In the 18th century certain alterations were carried out, and the two pillars removed from the entrance to their present position.

There is also a curious tradition concerning the building of this cathedral, that would trace the origin of these pillars to the Scoto-Irish missionaries of the seventh century.

The Holy St. Killian, commonly called the apostle of the Franks, by birth an Irishman, was sent to Franconia by Pope Benedict II. in the year 685, to introduce the Christian religion there.

A. F. A. Woodford, M.A. See also *The Origin and Early History of Masonry*, by G. W. Steinbrenner. New York, 1868.

¹ Leipzig, 1820, pl. 33.



DOORWAY AND DETAILS OF THE COLUMNS IN THE CATHEDRAL OF WURZBURG.
[From a drawing in the possession of the Royds Lodge of Freemasons, Great Malvern.]

To this day a spot near Wurzburg is called the "Killian-

stein" (Killian stone) or Schottenberg¹ (Scotch mound) upon which stands a large building.

It is therefore possible that Killian, with the help of Scotch masons, built a small chapel there, and perhaps introduced the gild legend.

The first Bishop of Wurzburg (Burckard) sprung from a noble family in England in the eighth century, was a relative of St. Boniface, Archbishop of Mainz, and was elected in 750 to the bishopric of Wurzburg, when he caused the present cathedral to be commenced.

It has been stated that he brought the master builder from Britain, and it is therefore possible that these pillars, if not taken from the chapel of St. Killian, were by him erected.

Modern opinion concerning the probable date of these pillars, which from their form illustrate strength and beauty, is that they are *not* earlier than the twelfth century; although according to Scharold's description of the cathedral, they were erected by Bishop Bruno in 1045. In any case we have here an illustration of the peculiar legendary symbolism of the mediæval masons.

The Reformation and the Masons art. To return to the "Reformation" in England. What-
ever it may have done for religion it certainly did not elevate the art of masonry; for with the "new learning" and the Renaissance came the stiff form of Greek and Roman architecture, to the utter destruction of the high class work of the Gothic mason.

As mentioned above, Henry the Seventh's chapel at Westminster was a fitting climax to mediæval masonry, which during the three preceding centuries had been ever increasing in beauty and lightness; indeed it is probable that in no other edifice on the globe is such profound geometrical skill displayed, mingled with such luxuriance of ornament and such aspiring lightness of design, as in this masterpiece of construction.

¹ Ireland was known as Scotia until the 11th century, North Britain being called Albania.

Wages of
Masons at
Hampton
Court *temp.*
Henry VIII.

The wages of the masons at this period are given in the fabric rolls of Hampton Court Palace, built by Cardinal Wolsey.

27 Henry VIII. March 25th.

freemasons account.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|---|------|
| Master at 12 <i>d.</i> the day. | John Molton | . | . | 6/- |
| Warden at 5 <i>d.</i> the week. | William Reynolds | . | . | 20/- |
| Setters at 3/8 the week | . | . | . | 13/8 |
| Lodgemen at 3/4 the week | . | . | . | 13/4 |

The Clerk of the Works received 8*d.* per day, and his writing clerks 6*d.* per day, each.

1548.
Protection *vs.*
Free Trade.

On the death of Henry some attempt was made to do away with the monopoly of trade in the city, and an Act was passed¹ to allow any craftsman to practise his calling in London whether free of the city or not. This was evidently a Free-trade movement, encouraging foreign workmen who flocked to England after the Reformation to settle down, and also, perhaps, affording a firmer hold to the reformed religion. This did not suit the citizens, and in consequence it was repealed in the following year, on the petition of the London crafts against foreign competition.

The
Iconoclasts.

Under Edward VI. the London masons played no inconsiderable part in carrying out the views of the extreme Low Church party, to whom the Protector looked for power; as the late Mr. John Richard Green forcibly remarks: "Against the pressure of the Conservative party, who had suddenly found themselves jockeyed out of power, Somerset and the 'new men' could look for no help but from the Protestants."² This will account for the following acts of desecration that are recorded in the records of St. Michael, Cornhill.³

¹ 2 Edward VI. c. xv., A.D. 1584.

² *History of the English People*, vol. ii. p. 225.

³ Wilkinson's *Londinia*.

Item.

1548. Payd to a mason for cutting down the stowens y^t ye images
stewd [stood] upon in ye church xvi^d.

Item.

1549. Payd to ye mason in gracyous strete for taking down vj aulters xv^s.

Probably these were only minor acts of violence compared with others committed in various parts of the city and environs, by the fanatical zeal of the Lutheran party, then for the first time in a powerful position.

Trade,
1558. With the accession of Elizabeth the trade of the country was revived, and during her long and successful reign made rapid strides towards setting England at the head of the commercial world.

Statute of
Elizabeth. The Statutes of Labourers, which had been accumulating ever since the time of Edward III., were re-arranged in the fifth year of her reign, and a new code of regulations concerning labour was issued.

The principal items referred to Apprenticeship.

Statute 5. Elizabeth, c. iv.

Clause 26 enacts that every householder, being twenty-four years of age living in a city or town corporate, and exercising an art, mystery, or manual occupation, may have the son of any free-man, not occupying husbandry, nor being a labourer, and living in that or some city or town corporate, as an apprentice, after the custom of London, for seven years at least, so as the term do not expire before the apprentice shall be of the age of twenty-four years.¹

Clause 27. Merchants not to take apprentices, except their own sons and those whose parents possess an estate of freehold, of the annual value of 40s.

Clause 30. The son of any person though his father has no

¹ This fact Dr. G. Kloss thinks establishes the idea that the old masons' poem of 1390 was written for the London Masons' Guild.

lands, may be put apprentice to a smith, wheelwright, plowright, millwright, carpenter, "rough mason,"¹ plasterer, sawyer, lime burner, brickmaker, bricklayer, tiler, healyer, linen weaver, turner, cooper, miller, earthen potter, fuller, thatcher or shingler, etc., etc.

**The City and
the Peerage.**

From these clauses we see how the position of the different crafts was kept up; and from the circumstance that merchants were obliged to take apprentices from freeholders, arose the custom of the younger sons of the yeomen of England, and also of the smaller gentry, embarking in trade, and laying the foundation for many noble families, which to-day enjoy their broad acres, and high places, thanks to their citizen ancestors.

**1563.
The Hall
purchased by
the Company.**

This year—the lease of Masons' Hall, granted to the Company by the prior and convent of the Holy Trinity, Aldgate, expired, and the Company determined to purchase the freehold from the then landlord, one John Lany, who had acquired the property from the Taverner family, to whom King Henry VIII. had sold the ground, after the suppression of the priory in July, 1531.²

How the Company raised the money necessary for this act we cannot say, as there are no existing records of that date. Most probably it was with money accumulated from fines and quartage, or else a series of loans from the more wealthy members, repayable by the Company in later years.

The following particulars of a deed dated 4 Elizabeth is taken from a summary of documents made in 1722, when the original was evidently in the Company's chest.

¹ There evidently was a great difference between the rough mason and the free-stone mason.

² The Priory of the Holy Trinity, founded by Queen Maud, consort of Henry I., in the year 1108, for canons regular of the Order of St. Augustin, and said to be the wealthiest in England, stood just within Aldgate. The prior was *ex officio* alderman for the ward of Portsoken until 1264. Fuller says of them: "They were most bountifull house-keepers, relieving all comers and goers, and got themselves much reputation for their hospitality."

Oct. 28, 4th Elizabeth.

1562.

A Deed between John Lany of Cratfield, in the county of Suffolk, gent, and John Lurbett, John Tanner, William Preble,



SIR THOMAS GRESHAM, CITIZEN AND MERCER.

[From the Painting by Sir Antonio More.]

William Asheton, John Richardson, Thomas Waton, Philip Paskin, William Wilde, Thomas Harrys, and William Kerryn,¹ citizens and freemasons of

¹ William Kerryn, or Kerwin.

London, whereby Lany sells all that capital messuage used or known for Masons Hall, situate in Haslewood Alley and also all that part of the Ally and all the houses, tenements, buildings and void ground with appurtenances lying between the tenements of said John Tanner in part and the houses of George Stockmead which messuage and etc. contain in length 3 score and 16 feet and in width from the church yard and parish church of St. Stephen in Coleman Street on the south part under the garden in the tenure of John Luke belonging to the Mistery of Merchant Taylors of London on the north 3 score and 18 feet and the north side of the said Ally contains in length 4 score and 4 feet which estate was given to the said Lany by Roger Taverner and Robert Taverner who purchased the same of King Henry VIII. the 23rd March 36 Hen. VIII. The consideration or purchase money was £200.

1566.
The Royal
Exchange
built.

Sir Thomas Gresham this year proposed to erect a building at his own expense in the city of London, for the service of commerce, if the citizens would purchase a proper site for that purpose. His offer being accepted, ground was obtained between Cornhill and Threadneedle Street, and a building copied from the plan of the Exchange at Antwerp was designed.¹

Sir Thomas laid the foundation stone on June 7th, 1566, and such was the expedition of the masons that the building was finished in November, 1567. It was an oblong square, with a portico supported by pillars of marble, under which stood small shops to the number of 120.²

1570.

At first the Exchange was called "The Bourse," but on the 23rd of January, 1570, the queen visited the city, and after dining with Sir Thomas, went over the Bourse, which she commanded should be henceforth called the Royal Exchange.

The City
Volunteers.
1572.

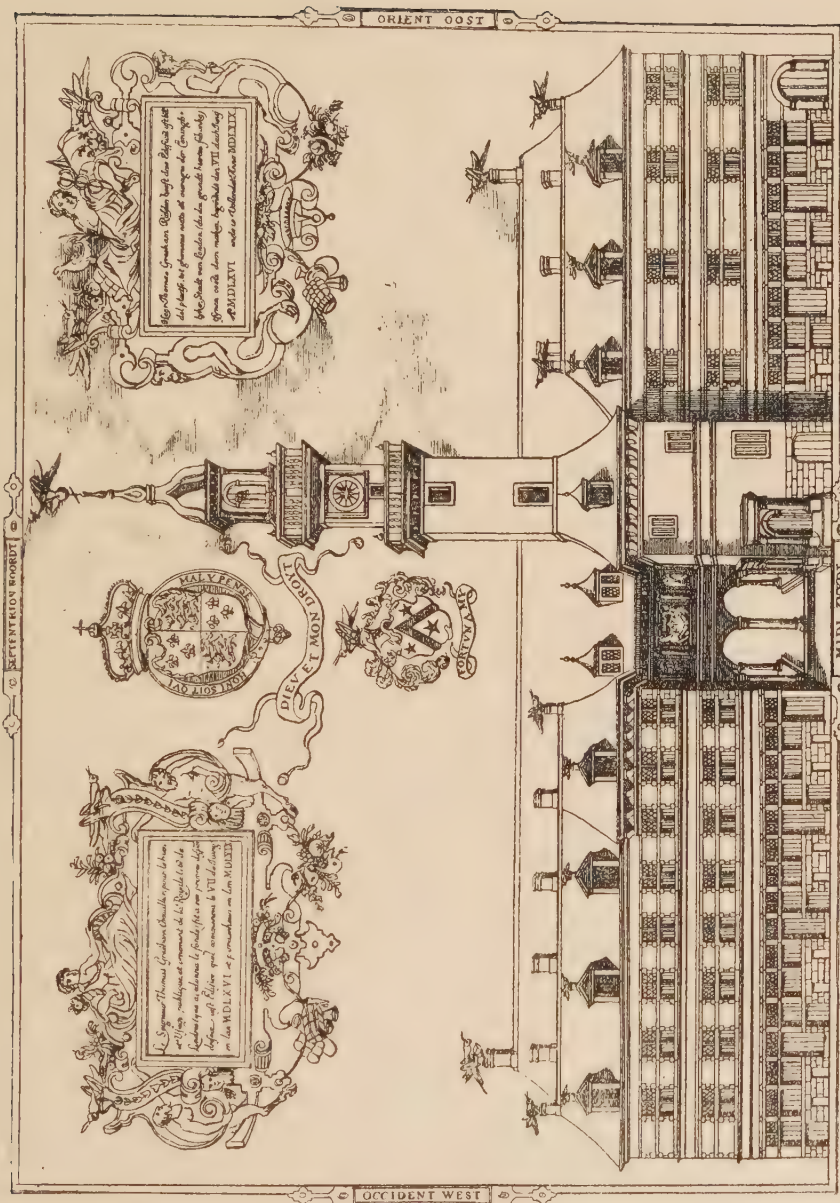
We read in Stow's *Annals*³ that in 1572, the 25th of March,

"By commandment of the Queen majesty, her counsell, the citizens of London assembling at their se="

¹ By Henryke, a Flemish architect.

² Each let at a rent of £4 10s. per annum.

³ Ed. 1614.



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, 1869, FROM A SCARCE ENGRAVING

neral hals, the masters chose out the most likely & active persons of every their companies, to the number of three thousand, whome they appoynted to be pikemen & shot. The pikemen were forthwith armed in faire corslets and other furniture, according thereunto: The gunners hadde every of them his caliver, with the furniture and murrians on their heads. To these were appointed diners valiant captains, who to traine them up in warlike feates, mustered them thrice every weeke, sometimes in the artillery Yard, teaching the gunners to handle their peeces, sometimes at the Miles' end, and in S. Georges field, teaching them to skirmish. In y^e which skirmish on the Miles' end¹ the tenth day of April, one of the gunners of the goldsmiths company, was shot in the side with a peece of scowring sticke left in one of the calivers, whereof he dyed, and was buried the twelfth of April in S. Pauls Church yard, all the gunners marching from the Miles' end in battell ray, shot off their calivers at his grave.

On Mayday they mustered at Greenwich before the Queenes majesty where they shewed many warlike feates, but were hindered by the weather, which was all that day showring, they returned that night to London and were discharged on the next morrow."

The Account
for Training
the men of
the Masons
Company for
the Greenwich
Muster of 1585.

This training of citizen soldiers occurred frequently during the reign of Elizabeth. Another muster was held at Greenwich in 1585, and a curious document² exists in the British Museum relating to the Masons Company and this review. It is entitled:

¹ Mile End, Bow.

² *Lansdown MS.* 818, folio 174. This MS. formerly belonged to Lord Burghley, Lord High Treasurer of England, *temp.* Elizabeth.

“A RECONING of the Company of ffree masons for the trayninge of VIII
men for the muster before her Majesty”

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| In primis for presse mony to VIII soldiers | viii ^s |
| Item for makinge cleane & mendinge of iiij corselettes against their first trayninge | xix ^s |
| Item for amendinge the same in the tyme of their trayninge, beinge broken and otherwise misued | vj ^s viii ^d |
| Item for triminge of iiij pyks & arminge of the same | v ^s x ^d |
| Item for makinge cleane & amendinge of iiij calivers against their trayninge & in the tyme of their service | xviiij ^s xi ^d |
| Item for amendinge their flasks beinge often broken and for new flasks | ix ^s ix ^d |
| Item for tryninge & makinge cleane their swords daggers and scabberds | iiij ^s vj ^d |
| Item for newe girdells & lethers and tryninge of the old | iiij ^s vj ^d |
| Item for powder and matche | xxxv ^s vj ^d |
| Item for ribbens for the soldiers | iiij ^s x ^d |
| Item for their wages duringe their service at the rate of xij ^d a daye | Liiij ^s |
| Item for meate breade drinke for the same soldiers the dayes they were trayned | xvij ^s |
| Item for a new Corselette | xx ^s |
| Item for the 2 provision at Greenwich | xiiij ^s x ^d |
| Item for the expences of the Wardens in & about attendance of them | vj ^s viij ^d |
| Item for the Bedille for his attendance of them | vij ^s x ^d |
| Item for the Captayne for trayninge of them | xx ^s |
| Item for new Lases and Strings for the ^r flasks | iiij ^s iiij ^d |
| Summa Totalis | £xiii ij ^d |

Assessment
for Corn, etc.

In one of the *Letter Books*¹ of the city of London is a transcript of assessments “newly rated.” The date is about July, 1574. It is headed “Ryvers Maior.² A proportion devysed and set downe by the Court of Aldermen, concerning the assessment of the companyes as well for loans of monye for corne, or any other such lyke thinge, as well for setting furthe men as

¹ *Letter Book*, x. fol. 318. Arber's reprints *Stat. Registers*, i. 480.

² Sir John Rivers was mayor in 1573.

occasion shall serve. After which proportion the companyes are hereafter to be charged, and that euerye hundreth pounce charged vppon euerye companye shall beare viij men." : . . In the proportion "of iiij^c [400] men appoynted to be sent to the Queenes maiesties shippes."

The Masons appear as being assessed at one man.

In the proportion for "a loane of v^m. xxxvii^{li}. x^s." [£5,037 10s. 0d.] made for the provision for corn in the city, the Masons contribute £12 10s. 0d.

Order for Gunpowder in 1574. In the *Journal*¹ of the Court of Common Council is a copy of the Lord Mayor's order for gunpowder, addressed to the various companies of London. In the "proporcion devised for the companeyes to provide." The Masons are ordered to furnish one "fyrkin."

1588. The Armada. The Spanish Armada threatens an invasion. In making preparations for defending the country, London was asked to provide fifteen ships and five thousand men. The city asked for two days to confer together, after which delay they came forward with the promise of thirty ships and ten thousand men.

At Tilbury in Essex, the great camp was formed to protect the capital. The Queen rode up and down the ranks to inspect her soldiers, the Earl of Leicester being in command.

The city was represented by one thousand citizens at Tilbury, but in London, under the Lord Chamberlain, nine thousand citizens assisted in guarding her Majesty's person.² Loyalty has always been the glory of the city.

August 20th. After the destruction of the Armada, a thanksgiving service was held at Paul's Cross, the Lord Mayor being present in state, together with all the Livery Companies in their proper clothing.

We now turn to the civic festivities and pageants that were so

¹ *Journal*, vol. xx. fol. 1560. Arber's *Transcript*, vol. i. p. 488.

² Stow's *Annals*.

much the feature of the Elizabethan age, and as "Good Maister Stow" was a member of the Merchant Taylors Company, his writings may be followed as perhaps the best authority on the subject.¹

Pageants,
1588. The 24th of November was set apart as a general thanksgiving for the victory over the Spanish Armada, and Stow gives a glowing account² of the Royal procession which set out from Somerset House, the Queen riding in a chariot drawn by white horses, and attended by the court in gorgeous costumes. At Temple Bar the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs met and escorted her to St. Paul's, the Livery Companies lining the streets, each company in their respective livery, and standing within rails of timber that enclosed spaces for their convenience; each company according to precedence, the Mercers at Temple Bar, and the other companies according to their number on the list, continued down Fleet Street to the entrance of the cathedral.

January,
1589. The Queen again visited the city, being met by the Lord Mayor and Council in coats of velvet with gold chains about their necks.

1591. The danger threatened by the Armada having passed over, the advisers of the Crown now began to think of punishing the Spaniards for the insult the country had sustained, consequently an expedition was planned to intercept the return to Spain of certain of her West Indian fleet.

The City was, as usual, called upon to assist.

June, 1591. Among the Acts of Common Council³ is one referring to "the present furnishing of six Shippes and one pynasse," which orders that "at the request of the Queens most excelent Maiestie" they shall be "forthwith taken vpp, furnished, and had in rediness by the citie for her Maiesties service by sea." Seven thousand four hundred pounds was to be levied for the charges,

¹ *Survey of London.*

² Stow's *Annals*, p. 751.

³ *Journal*, xviii., fol. 31.

upon the "seuerall halles of this citie." Among the list of companies, not arranged in any order, the Masons occur as contributing £16.

^{1591.}
September 10. A fresh Act¹ was this day passed by the common council for a further levy of £1,240 4s., the former sum not having been found sufficient. The whole amount required was nearly £8,000.

These ships formed the London contingent in Lord Thomas Howard's fleet, the seven ships being under the command of Master Thomas Flicke.

Leaving Plymouth on the 17th August, 1591, they cruized all round about the Azores, waiting for the great Spanish fleet; scattered by various storms they only captured one prize.

These ships again formed a portion of the fifteen ships in the fleet of Sir Walter Raleigh's expedition, which left Plymouth on the 6th of May, 1592.

Prizes for
the City.

That the citizens received a certain share of the plunder we gather from the following:—

^{1592.} On the 15th December an Act of Common Council was passed, which shows the reward of the city for their "adventure," when certain members of the various companies and others were called to "take a perfect view of all such goodes, prizes, spices, jewelles, pearles, treasure, and other merchandize and things whatsoever, as weare lately taken in the carraque [by Sir Walter Raleigh], and to make sale, division, particion, and delyuerie, to and for every seuerall company, owner, and adventurer, of a full, just, and proporcionable parte thereof," etc.²

We cannot but regret that the absence of any accounts of the Masons of this date makes it impossible to detail the Company's prize.

¹ *Journal*, fol. 43b.

² *Arber's Reprints*, vol. i., pp. 544, 552, 558.

Elizabethan
Architecture.

Although it has been shown that the Reformation to some extent paralyzed the Masons' calling by the cessation for a time of ecclesiastical construction ; yet the age of Elizabeth is remarkable for the introduction of the now universal habit of buildings being carried out from plans, elevations, and working drawings, arranged beforehand by a competent artist termed the architect. According to Gwilt¹ there is abundant evidence that no building was at this date undertaken without the previous arrangement of a digested and regulated plan.

That such houses as Kenilworth, Burleigh, Longleat, Knowle, Penshurst, Wollaton, and many others built between 1560 and 1600, required scientific treatment no one will deny, and it is with some pride that the Masons Company may perhaps claim the architect of Wollaton Hall as one of her freemen.

One of the chief architects of this period was John Thorpe, and although Wollaton has generally been attributed to him, yet the following extract from Gotch's *Architecture of the Renaissance in England*,² places Mr. Robert Smythson as a competitor for that honour.

"But Thorpe has a competitor for the honour of being the designer of Wollaton in the person of 'Mr. Robert Smythson, gent.,' who has a monument in Wollaton Church recording him as '*Architector and Survayor* unto the most Worthy House of Wollaton, with diverse others of great account.' We have already seen at Cambridge and Oxford how the master-mason blossomed out into the architect on his tombstone, and as the name of 'Mr. Smythson' occurs among the masons in the building accounts, it is not improbable that he was the chief workman, and is therefore responsible for the details of the work, while Thorpe supplied the general design. There was a Smythson employed at Longleat, in Wiltshire, which was being built from 1567 till about 1580, and it is not im-

¹ Gwilt's *Encyclopedia of Architecture*.

² Page 63.

probable that on leaving there he came to Wollaton, and finally settled there till his death in 1614. He was 79 years old when he died, and therefore would be 45 when he came to Wollaton in 1580. His epitaph is as follows :—

Here lyeth ye body of Mr.
Robert Smythson, gent.,
Architector and Survay-
or unto the most worthy
House of Wollaton, with
diverse others of great
account ; he lived in ye fayth
of Christ 79 years and then
departed this life ye XVth of
October, An^o Dm̄i, 1614.

His monument bears on it the arms of the Masons Company,¹ which points to his being a member, and so increases the probability of his being a working mason."

Lord Mayor's The great civic event of the year was the swearing in
Day.
Temp. Elizth. of the new Lord Mayor, not as now on November 9th, but on the morrow after the day of SS. Simon and Jude (28th October).

"The Company with the outgoing Mayor and the new Lord Mayor having first assembled at Guildhall, they take horse and ride to the Vine tree, where they take Barge and go by water to Westminster, all the Livery Companies attending, each in its particular Barge.

"Having crossed to Westminster the new Lord Mayor repairs to the Exchequer Chamber and there takes the prescribed Oath ; they then return by water to the city, take to their horses, and ride to the Guildhall to dinner ;" a certain number of members of each company having the privilege of dining there also.

¹ The arms arc, on a (*plain*) chevron between 3 towers, a pair of compasses.

The Masons
and the Guild-
hall Banquet.

We find the Masons Company represented by their Wardens and one other person, and entitled to partake of "one Messe."¹ The Mercers on these occasions would be represented by their Wardens, seventeen other persons, and were allowed "five Messe"; this will show the difference between a great and a minor company at this period.²

Besides the Livery Companies, Stow mentions the Lords of the Privy Council, the Barons, Judges, certain of the nobility, with the foreign Ambassadors, and strangers who were the invited guests.

After the dinner the Lord Mayor proceeded to St. Paul's with the Aldermen; the Livery Companies standing in their proper places according to their order of precedence.

We thus see that the Lord Mayor's Day and Banquet three hundred years ago was almost identical with that of last November, with the exception of the water pageant.

1594.

The Company being at this time known as that of the Freemasons, it is interesting to note any antiquities relating to it or its members.

There is in the Church of S. Helen, Bishopsgate, a handsome tomb to the memory of one William Kerwin, citizen and free Mason.

The sketches given here have been taken by Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A., from drawings made in 1869 by Mr. E. Flint. The tomb is ornamented with pilasters of white marble carved in relief. The top slab is black marble, and on panels of the same material are incised the figures of the deceased and various armorial bearings, all filled in with yellow; the lettering, all in Lombardic capitals, is also incised and filled in with some black composition.

¹ Stow mentions this number under date of Henry VIII.

² Pepys, writing a hundred years later, describes the Lord Mayor's dinner of his day, October 29th, 1663. He says, "I set at the Merchant Strangers' Table, where ten good dishes to a messe," . . . He further says: "but it was very displeasing that we had no napkins nor change of trenchers, and drunk out of earthen pitchers, and wooden dishes." Pepys took his own knife, as only the "high" table was furnished with them.—See *The Diary*, October 1663.

On the south side of the tomb is the following inscription :—¹

HERE LYETH THE BODIE OF WILLIAM KERWIN OF THIS CITTIE OF LONDON
FREE ² MASON WHOE DEPARTED THIS LYFE THE 26TH DAY OF DECEMBER ANO 1594.



On the north side the following in Latin :—

ÆDIBVS ATTALICIS LONDINVM QVI DECORAVI : ME DVCE SVRGEbant ALIIS REGALIA TECTA :
EXIGVAM TRIBVVT HANC MIHI FATA DOMV : ME DVCE CONFICITVR OSSIBVS VRNA MEIS :

“The Fates have afforded this narrow house to me ; who have

¹ These particulars of Kerwin's tomb are taken from an article on the subject by Mr. Rylands, printed in the *Masonic Magazine*, September, 1881.

² Free Mason in the sense of a Free Vintner, etc.

adorned London with noble buildings ; By me royal palaces were built for others ; By me this tomb is erected for my bones."

On the west end are sculptured the Arms of the Company of Masons as granted by William Hawkeslowe in 1472. On a chevron engrailed, between three square castles, a pair of compasses ex-



tended ; as a crest, the square castle ; also (for the first time) a motto, "God is ovr Gvide" ; and it is interesting to note that at this time the Arms had not degenerated into a plain chevron between three towers, as given by Stow in 1633. Therefore at some time between this date and 1633 the change must evidently have been made.

This William Kerwin was a member of the Masons Company in 1563, as his name is mentioned in a deed dated 23rd November, 8 Elizabeth, in which the rooms over the kitchen and also over the gate of Masons' Hall, in Haslewood Alley, in the Parish of St. Michael's, Bassishaw, were let to John Richardson, a member of the Company. This deed was in the Company's chest in 1722, as in that year an inventory of the "Writings in the Company's Chest" was made by order of the Court.

1600.
The Masons'
Company
and Church
repairs.

It would appear from the following extract from the vestry book of St. Peter's, Cornhill, that occasionally the Master and Wardens of the Company were called in to give their opinion on the state of certain city churches :—

Oct. 12th,
1600.

The steeple was sentenced, by the Master and Wardens of the Masons, to be taken down in March, and in the mean space to be pointed and stopped against the weather.

Assessment
for Corn,
1602.
Feb. 25.

The city records contain particulars of an assessment of 10,000 quarters of corn required by the City from the Livery Companies.

In the list we find the Masons Company placed No. 30 in the order of precedence, and the quantity of corn required from them was 25 quarters.¹

1603.

Nothing of importance is found concerning the Company during the next ten or fifteen years.

In 1603 the Masons, with the other companies, assembled at the Charter House to welcome King James who had arrived from Theobalds, near Ware, his last halting-place on his journey from Scotland.

The old
clothing.

The Company would be dressed for the last time in their ancient parti-coloured clothing of black and white, with hoods lined with a bright colour, either red or yellow, as early

¹ Jupp, *Hist. of the Carpenters Com.*, p. 294.

in this reign the old clothing gave way for dark coloured gowns, but still retaining for some years the parti-coloured hood. These hoods were thrown over the right shoulder, and fastened across the breast ; it was the last relic of the ancient hood, with its pendent tippet, that



came into fashion about the time of Henry VI.¹ A Charter of the Leathersellers Company, *temp.* James I., contains a drawing of two citizens thus arrayed. This picturesque costume at length became obsolete, and the present fur-lined gown took its place.²



LIVERYMEN TEMP. HENRY VI. (A.D. 1444).



LIVERYMAN TEMP. JAMES I.

The
Coronation of
James I.

In the City records occurs "the assessments on the several companies for raising £400 for the full performance

¹ Fairholt's *Costume in England*.

² *Temp.* Charles II. The hood, however, is mentioned as late as 1706.

and finishing of the pageants, shows, etc., from the Tower to Temple Bar, against the passage of the king and queen's most excellent majesties through the City, per order Common Council," 14 February, 1603-4.

The Masons Company, which occupies the 30th place on the list, is assessed at £1; the Carpenters at £2; the Cooks at £2; the Broderers at £2; the Mercers being the third largest subscribers with the sum of £32 16s.¹

Stow gives the following account of the proceedings in his *Annales*, p. 836, ed. 1615, he no doubt being an eyewitness:—

"The 15 of March, King James, Queen Anne his wife, and Henry Fredricke the Prince, passed triumphantly from the Tower of London through his royall Cittie and Chamber of London, towards Westminster. The companies of y^e cittie, martialled according to their degrees, were placed, the first, beginning at the upper end of Marke lane, and the last reaching to the Conduct in Fleet-street, or thereabout: their seates being double railed, upon the upper part whereof they leaned: the streamers, ensignes and banners of each particular company decently fixed. And directly against them, quite through the bodie of the cittie, so high as Temple barre a single raile, in faire distance from the other, was likewise erected to put off the multitude: the King, richly mounted on a white Gennet, under a rich canopie, susteined by eyght gentlemen of the priuie chamber, for the Barons of the Cinque portes, entered his royall cittie of London, and passed the same towards Westminster, through seauen gates, of the which the first was erected at the east end of Fanchurch."

1607. King James pays² to the City a debt of £60,000 contracted by Queen Elizabeth.

1608. Virginia planted by the help of the citizens of London.

The Ulster
Plantation.

In order to try and settle the "Irish question," James I. and his advisers issued a pamphlet to the city entitled,

¹ Jupp's *Hist. of the Carpenters Company*, p. 294.

² Although the Stuarts have always been found fault with because of their constant demands for money, yet we often find that they or their successors repaid their debts; a thing unknown to their predecessors.

“ Motives and reasons to induce the city to undertake the plantation in the north of Ireland, London, 1608.”

1609. After several ineffectual attempts to induce the city as a corporation to undertake the scheme, James had recourse to the Livery Companies ; and in 1609 a contract was signed at Guildhall by which the twelve Principal Companies should choose a representative body of their members to be incorporated as the governor and assistants of the Irish Society, and to be a company after the civic style. This plan, however, was eventually changed ; and in 1615 the land was divided up into twelve districts among the twelve great Companies. The price to be paid was £60,000, estimated then to produce £1,800 per annum, giving about twenty-nine years purchase.¹

1618
The Mercers’
Manor. October 18th, 1618, the Irish Society erected a portion of the County of Londonderry into a Mercers’ Manor, and conveyed it to that Company by feoffment, subject to the usual conditions. The Mercers, however, had as joint owners, or sub-shareholders, the following minor Companies : The Innholders, the Cooks, the Broderers, and the Masons, each of whom had subscribed a certain sum of money for the purchase of the said manor.

The Times
Newspaper
and the Irish
Plantation. The following account of the plantation of Ulster, and the Mercers Company in particular, is taken by permission from a “leader” in the issue of *The Times*, which appeared on September 26th, 1876 :—

“ The Mercers are in precedency the first of the ‘Twelve Great Companies’ of the City of London, and their existence as a powerful Guild in this capital seven centuries ago is a matter of faith with all civic Conservatives. The first extant charter was granted by Richard II., and to this succeeded other grants and confirmations, the last by James II., just before the downfall of the House of Stuart. A few years later an enthusiastic municipal historian wrote of the Mercers, ‘The Company is patronized by the Blessed Virgin, and of it there have been several Kings, Princes, and nobility, and ninety-eight Lord Mayors.’ The boast, it is true, has been

¹ W. C. Hazlitt, *The Livery Companies of London*.

“disputed, although Sir Richard Whittington and Sir Thomas Gresham, “the legendary and the real representatives of Civic success, were members “of the Guild. It is certain, at any rate, that in the beginning of the 17th “century the Mercers were amongst the foremost of the City Companies, “that the Companies ruled the Corporation, and that the Corporation was “politically and financially a power in the State. But, powerful as this and “other Guilds were, they were liable to the dictatorial interference of the “Crown, and to requests which were practically commands. It was, no “doubt, with some misgivings that the Companies, in 1609, received an “invitation from King James I. to take part in the ‘Plantation of Ulster.’ “England was at the time in a colonizing fever, and in the previous year the “Merchant Taylors had been served with a ‘precept’ for the settlement of “Virginia. The despairing stand made by the O’Neils and the O’Donnells “against the advance of the English had almost depopulated Ulster, a vast “area of land had been forfeited and needed settlers, and the King’s project “invited particular attention to ‘the late desolated city of the Derrie.’ This “place, situated on ‘the river of Lough Foyle,’ was described as admirably “fitted for commerce, and the ‘Planters’ were promised a free grant of the “towns of Derry and Coleraine, with all the land between the Bann and “Lough Foyle. The natural resources of the country were portrayed with “the fluent eloquence of a modern auctioneer, and the price for which the “future of this rich dominion was to be surrendered was fixed at the moderate “sum of £60,000. The Corporation of the City, knowing that the King “wanted the money and would not be denied, formed a Company, a sort of “municipal dependency, since known as the ‘Irish Society,’ to close with the “Royal offer. In raising the money the ‘Twelve Great Companies’ took “equal shares, and, after a certain indivisible estate, remaining under the “direct government of the Irish Society, had been set aside, the rest was “divided by lot among the contributing Guilds. Thus did the Mercers, as “well as the Grocers, the Drapers, the Fishmongers, the Goldsmiths, the “Skinners, the Merchant Taylors, the Haberdashers, the Salters, the Iron- “mongers, the Vintners, and the Clothworkers, become landed proprietors in “Ulster.

“The Irish Society and the Companies received from the Crown the “most ample powers of colonization. A new county was formed, to which “was given the name of London-Derry, from the great capital which had “become its foster-mother. The ‘desolated city’ upon the Foyle was rebuilt “with more care and regularity than were usual in that age ; the houses were “substantially constructed, and seemed like palaces beside the mud cabins “of the Celtic peasantry ; and the town was protected by fortifications which

“were destined to do splendid service in one of the great crises of English history. But those who were responsible for the Plantation of Ulster did more than this for Londonderry. They colonized the county with a hardy breed of Protestant and Saxon yeomanry. Their work was stable and sound. It survived the attack of Charles I., and the Star Chamber upon municipal charters ; it stood out boldly against the Celtic rebellion of 1641 ; it victoriously resisted the shock of James’s rabble-rout in 1689. The privileges of the ‘Planters’ were securely established by the manner in which they met these dangers, and the charter of Charles II. confirming his grandfather’s grant has never been disturbed. The Irish Society, besides the administration of the ‘indivisible estates,’ is entitled to claim from the separate estates carved out of the original concession for the Twelve Companies contributions for the general objects of the ‘Plantation,’ such as the maintenance of public works and edifices, the support of the civil government of Derry and Coleraine, the repair of Protestant churches and chapels, the establishment of schools, and ‘generally the execution of such measures as tend to promote and improve the civil and religious interests of the tenantry.’ Some of these purposes may be obsolete ; but it is only just to say that the administration of the Irish Society and of the Companies can claim the praise of eminent practical success. In no part of Ireland is prosperity more widely diffused or more securely established than in Londonderry.”

PART III

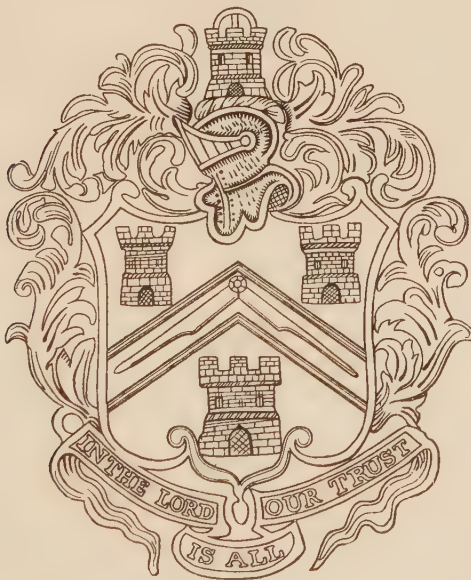
The Records of the Masons Company

1619 to 1894

NOTE.—*The extracts from the Company's records which are given in the following pages are for the most part modernised, only in a few instances are they EXACT copies of the originals, there being little to be gained in reproducing the old orthography.*

THE BOOKS OF THE COMPANY

FROM this point it is possible to follow the progress of the Company very closely, having for our authority thousands of MS. pages contained in twenty-five large folio volumes of court and



THE ARMS OF THE COMPANY AS STAMPED ON THE COVERS
OF THE MS. ACCOUNT AND COURT BOOKS.

account books. Therefore, the chronicle becomes of greater interest as the extracts increase. These volumes have been carefully pre-

served, and well-bound, the covers being stamped with a plate of the arms, dating from about the year 1690.

The only book dealing with the Company before 1663, which has descended to our time, is a volume of receipts and expenditure kept by the treasurers, a thick folio measuring 11×8 inches, and containing some 500 pages. It commences with the account of the master and wardens for the year ending July, 1620, and contains the yearly payments received and made by the Company till the end of the year 1706. Consequently, it is from this book alone that we are able to sketch the history of the Company in the first half of the seventeenth century.

It commences abruptly, and as these accounts until the early part of this century were in an unbound condition,¹ it is possible that some earlier records, now lost, formed the commencement.

The first page of the present volume has the following heading :—

1620

The Accompte of James Entloer
 M^r. William Ward & John Abraham Wardens
 of the Company of Freemasons w^{ch} in the City of
 London beginninge the first day of Julie 1619
 And endinge the of Julie 1620 of all
 receite & paym^{ts} for & to the w^{ch} the said
 companye as followeth viz)

¹ Whether these accounts originally formed more than one volume we cannot say; most probably they did.

Which may be read thus :

1620

THE ACCOUNT of James Gilder Mr. William Ward and John Abraham wardens of the Company of ffremasons wthin the Citie of London begining the first day of Julie 1619 And endinge the day of Julie 1620 of all receite and payment for and to the use (of) the same companye as ffolloweth :

The old Customs of the Company. From this MS. "account book," it is possible to form some idea of the constitution of the Company under the first Stuart, and there is every probability that the customs then in force had descended from a remote past.

It would appear that the Company then consisted of a master, wardens, court of assistants, a livery, and a body of freemen, termed "the yeomandry."

The regular system of joining the gild was by servitude ; that is, a youth was bound apprentice for seven years to a freeman of the Company.

After signing his indenture, he was "presented" to the Company by his master, who paid a fee of 2s. 6d., and he was then entered in the books of the court ; in other words, he became an "*entered apprentice*."

After seven years he was entitled to take up the freedom of the Company, when the following fees were payable : a gratuity of one pound, a fine of three shillings and fourpence, and a small fee of sixpence, for clerks' fees.

From the freedom, or yeomandry, members could advance to the livery on payment of the sum of £3 ; to this was frequently added a fine of £6, termed a steward's fine. In certain cases this extra fine was not demanded, when, for instance, the individual pleaded poverty.

After some years the liveryman, if considered eligible, was invited to join the governing body, or court of assistants, when a fee of £2 was payable, on accepting that honourable position.

The member was then liable to be chosen at any time to fill the post of renter warden, when, if he declined, he was obliged to pay a fine of £10.

He would also in time be elected to the office of upper warden, and at length would, if in prosperous circumstances, proceed to fill the chair.

In later years the offices of master and wardens became subject to small fines in order to augment the sums devoted to entertainment.

With respect to the steward's fine, it was an old custom of the Company to select two or more members of the yeomanry or freemen once a year, to hold the post of steward on Lord Mayor's day. The stewards were expected to feast the Company at their own expense ; or failing to accept this position, were fined £6, unless exempted by reason of poverty. It appears from the books that, in course of time, they usually paid the fine on election to the livery, and left the Company free to provide the entertainments.

It appears from these accounts that, besides the operative mason, there were other citizens, members of the Company, who were in no way whatever connected with the trade, these members were in some instances the sons of freemen, who claimed admittance by patrimony, and joined the livery on payment of the same fees and gratuity as were due from the apprentice who had completed his seven years' apprenticeship, viz. £1 3s. 10d.

But in addition to these members there were also *others* who were admitted to the livery on "accepting masonry."

This class paid a further sum of £1, equal to the *gratuity* extracted from the apprentice when made free, most probably as a fine, on their initiation into the lodge of symbolical masonry attached to the Company, after which, being "*accepted freemasons*," they were eligible for admission on the livery, when they paid the sum of £9 (£3 fee, and £6 steward's fine), making £10 in all.

From the entries concerning these accepted masons, abundant

evidence is obtained of the dual condition of the Company at this date, *i.e.* that it consisted of speculative and operative members ; unfortunately, however, all the minute books previous to the year 1670 are missing, consequently we have no record of the internal working of the Company at this period, and very soon after the commencement of the earlier minute book, which has come down to us, the esoteric side of the Company ceased to exist.

The Accounts. Before examining the accounts of the Company, it will be necessary to consider the sources of income.

Quarterage. The receipts begin with what is termed "the old debte," or list of small sums received from various members as their quarterage, some being several quarters in arrear.

The quarterage was a subscription of sixpence per quarter, payable by all members free of the Company.

It was always a difficult matter for the Company to collect these accounts, as frequently the members did not attend for some years, when it became necessary to ask them to pay up their arrears, and in the event of refusal, to summon them before the Lord Mayor.

This we find was frequently done, but without much success ; and the question of collecting the quarterage money was one of constant trouble to the Company, and at length fell into disuse.

Entering Apprentices. The next source of income was from the "presenting of apprentices" by master-masons, members of the Company, from whom was due the sum of 2s. 6d.

Not having the bye-laws of the Company at this date, we are unable to describe the London custom, but doubtless it differed very little from that in use on presenting apprentices to the other corporations of masons in the north of England, and in Scotland.

From the records of the masons in Edinburgh we find, according to the Schaw statutes of 1598,¹ the following rules :—

¹ A full text of these statutes is given in *The Hist. of the Lodge of Edinburgh*, by D. M. Lyon.

Rule 11. No Master to receive an apprentice without informing the Warden of his "ludge" that his name and date of reception be duly booked.

Rule 12. No Apprentice to be entered but by the same order.

From Alnwick, in Northumberland, the records of the Masons Company of that town give the following rules concerning apprentices in 1701.

5th Item. Thatt noe mason shall take any apprentice (but he must) enter him and give him his charge within one whole year after. Nott so doing, the master shall pay for every such offence 3s. 4d.

6th Item. That every master for entering his apprentices shall pay 6d.

In commenting on the above extracts, Gould¹ says: "We have seen that a mason who took an apprentice was required to enter him and *give him his charge* within a year, and in estimating the meaning of these words it will be essential to recollect that a copy of the 'old charges' formed part of the records of the lodge. This was doubtless read to the apprentice at his entry."

We know from the inventories of our Company that a copy of the old charges or constitutions *did form a part* of the Company's records, and we can only conclude that in London, as in the north, this MS., or a portion of it, was read over to the apprentice on his being "presented" and entered as a future member of the gild.

Considering the length of these constitutions of masonry (a transcript of one version will be found on a future page), it is possible that a condensed form was sometimes used, as was the case at Swalwell, in Yorkshire.

The following "charge," which was read over to the entered apprentice, is transcribed from the apprentice orders of that body² of masons early in the eighteenth century.

"Forasmuch as you are contracted and Bound to one of our

¹ *Hist. of Freemasonry*, vol. ii. p. 264.

² Swalwell Lodge Apprentice Orders, No. 1, *Mas. Mag.*, vol. iii. 1875, pp. 82, 83.

Brethren : We are here assembled together with one Accord, to declare unto you the Laudable Dutys appertaining unto those y^t are Apprentices, to those who are of the Lodge of Masonry, which if you Take good heed unto and keep, will find the same worthy your regard for a Worthy Science : ffor at the building of the Tower of Babylon and Citys of the East, King Nimrod the Son of Cush, the Son of Ham, the Son of Noah, &c., gave Charges and Orders to Masons, as also did Abraham in Egypt. King David and his Son King Soloman at the building of the Temple of Jerusalem, and many more Kings and Princes of Worthy Memory from Time to Time, and did not only promote the fflame of the 7 Liberal Sciences but fformed Lodges, and give and granted their commissions and charters to those of or belonging to the Sciences of Masonry, to keep and hold their Assemblys, for correcting of ffaults, or Making Masons within their Dominions when and where they pleased."

The Swalwell Company of Operative Masons ultimately became wholly Speculative ; and the above is of considerable importance as showing the speculative character of its customs whilst still an operative fraternity.

With the Masons Company of London the speculative element disappeared before the end of the 17th century ; but at the period of these early accounts it would, in common with other operative Masons' fraternities, influence its strictly operative members with a certain amount of its esoteric doctrine. It also appears clear that some portion at least, if not all, of the fees paid by the Speculative or "Accepted" Masons were added to the funds of the Company which bore certain of the expenses incurred at the acceptance of masons.

I have written at some length on this subject of presenting or entering apprentices, as it is of the utmost importance that the reader of the following extracts should understand how far in the early part of the 17th century the speculative side of the London Company affected the operative mason.

The
Freedom.

"Ingresse mony of ffreemen" as an item in the receipts was one of no little importance. The sums payable by apprentices and those claiming by patrimony amounted, as we have seen, to one pound, three shillings, and tenpence. From certain entries we find the sum was made up as follows:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| By way of a gratuitie | . | . | . | . | xx ^s |
| Fine and fee | . | . | . | . | iii ^s x ^d |

In *one* instance, and in *one alone*, is the fine and fee of iii^s x^d explained. This entry will be found under the year 1636, when it appears that the apprentice

paid a gratuitie of xx^s, also
a fine for being made a Master-mason iii^s iii^d, and
a fee for his entrance of vi^d,
making the total xxiii^s x^d.

Master
Mason.

This explanation clearly shows that, although as an entered apprentice, he may have been to some extent initiated; yet it was not until he had completed his seven years' servitude that he was eligible for the higher position of master-mason, and this term master-mason is undoubtedly intended when we see the more usual entry of several apprentices and others made free, and their several fees being collected in one entry are thus described:—

Item. Recceed of seuerall psons made free w^{thin} the time
of the charge aforesaid in lieu of their seuerall gratuities and for
their respective admissions and entrances into ye same Comp^y } viii^{li} vi^s x^d
at xxiii^s x^d a peice as by the ordinary Cor^t booke may appear . }

Whether there was any secret ceremony or further initiation accompanying this "degree" of master-mason we cannot tell in the absence of documentary evidence. I am inclined to think there was, as we constantly find in the expenditure certain sums spent at the "making free" of various members.

Fines.

The Company also gained small sums from fines for misbehaviour, bad workmanship, or unruly conduct to the officers of the company.

Rents.

The rent of certain rooms over the gateway of Masons' Hall produced a few shillings. The rent for rooms over the hall and parlour, usually let to the clerk or beadle, brought in £12 os. od. a year.

Certain small tenements adjoining the hall, and let to widows of freemen and others, brought in £5 17s. 4d. a year.

Power of Search.

Then there was the right of "Search of Stone" within the city and district. This was of considerable importance, but of course fluctuated from year to year; in 1623 it produced £7 18s. 4d.

The Search for Masons working on buildings who were not free of the Company also brought in certain fees.

The following early notice of the speculative side of the Company is found in this year's account of money received:—

They charge themselves all the money received of the subscribers after named for their gratuities at their acceptance into the Livery of

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| Edwar Lloyd | ✓ | — | my th |
| Thomas Aldrestman | ✓ | — | my th |
| James Aldrich | ✓ | — | ps th |
| Cymothey Townesboud | ✓ | — | my th |
| John Linn | ✓ | — | my th 2d |
| John Rifford | ✓ | — | my th |

sketch 26

1620. They charge themselves also wth money receyued of the P^{sons} hereafter named for their gratuitie at theyr acceptance unto the Livery, viz. :—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| of Evan Lloyd | iiii ^{li} | } xxij ^l x ^s |
| Thomas Preestman | iii ^{li} | |
| James ffrench | vi ^{li} | |
| Timothy Townesend | iii ^{li} | |
| John Hince | iiii ^{li} ? x ^s | |
| John Kifford | iii ^{li} | |

These sums were evidently only part of the fine of £9 os. od. for joining the Livery, as we find James ffrench pays the balance of £3 os. od. in the following year.

1621. *Item.* Reced of James ffrench when he toke uppon } iii^{li}
hym the Lyvrie

In this year's account the following entry is given, being a posting up from the quarterage book of the previous year when James ffrench and others were *made Masons*.

*At the making masons viz John Brown, Rowland Everett, Evan Lloyd, James ffrench, John Clarke, & hym as
Recd of them as appear by the Quarte
booke*

ix^l vi^s viii^d

1621. Att the making masons viz. John Hince, John Brown, Rowland Everett, Evan Lloyd, James ffrench, John Clarke, Thomas Rose, reced of them as apth by the quart^h booke } ix^l vi^s viii^d

What the proportion of the above paid by ffrench was, is not easy to discover.

The following items are taken from the expenditure of the year 1620 :—

| | | <i>Expenditure.</i> | | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|----|----|
| | | £ | s. | d. |
| July, 1620. | <i>Item.</i> For swearing in the Master and Wardens at Guildhall | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> | For a dinner for the Assistants the same day, over and above xx ^s given by the younger Warden, and ten shillings each by the Master and upper Warden | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| „ | For Bread, drink, and fyre at theyr seuerall meetings w th in the tyme of this accompt | 0 | 13 | 1 |
| „ | To the Officer ¹ of the company for one year's wage | 2 | 13 | 4 |
| „ | To the poore of the parish | 0 | 13 | 1 |
| „ | Spent by the Wardens at the search for Purbeck Stone . . | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| „ | Spent on the day of thanksgiving for the King's delivery from Gower ² his treason | 1 | 15 | 0 |
| „ | For a forme att Pawles that day | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| „ | On the thanksgiving of the delivery from the Gunnpowder treason | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| „ | For a forme att Pawles ³ to hear the sermon | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| „ | On the celebration of the Kings coronacon being the 18th year of his majesties raygne ⁴ | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| „ | For a form att Pawles to hear the sermon | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| „ | And on the day of His Majesty coming to Pawles ⁵ to here a sermon in Pawles Churchyard | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| Lord Mayor's Day. | <i>Item.</i> For a dinner provided for the Company and theyre wiues, on Lord Mayor's day | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> | For Wiflers staves that day | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| „ | For two forms att Pawles | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| „ | For Hangings that day | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| „ | For Streamers | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> | For sending children into Virginia ⁶ | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| „ | For money disbursed for the copie of the "Irish Estate" ⁷ accounts | 0 | 12 | 0 |

¹ The beadle.

² The Gowrie Conspiracy of 1600. John 2nd Earl Gowrie, a strong Presbyterian, having invited James to Gowrie House, with the intention of murdering him, was himself slain in the scuffle that ensued.

³ At Paul's Cross. Forms were provided by the vergers, and the fees were their perquisites.

⁴ Copper money was first used in London this year.

⁵ After a severe illness.

⁶ The New Plantation.

⁷ Part of the Mercers' Manor in which this Company had a share.

| | | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------|--|---|----|-----------|
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid by the renter Warden for Match and powder ¹ | . | 6 | 2 0 |
| | <i>Item. For repairs to the Hall:</i> | | s. | d. |
| 1620. | For the Glasse | | 11 | 5 |
| | For Bricklayer | | 3 | 4 |
| | For Plasterer | | 7 | 0 |
| | For mending waynscott | | 3 | 0 |
| | For the Smith | | 0 | 7 |
| | For the various repairs | | 1 | 1 = 1 6 5 |
| 1621. | Richard Flulin for misdoing his work at the Church in | | | |
| Fines. | Huggin Lane | | 0 | 6 8 |
| | Off Wilson for the like at the Church in New Fish Street | | 0 | 6 8 |
| | Off Richard Chilton for the like at the church in Bassishaw | | 0 | 6 8 |
| | Off Evan Lloyd for misdemeanor towards Richard Middleton the | | | |
| | Upper Warden | | 0 | 5 0 |
| | From him for the like to the whole company | | 0 | 5 0 |
| | Off Ford for the like offence | | 0 | 5 0 |
| | Off John Grene for not taking the place of Upper Warden | | 1 | 11 0 |
| | Off Richard Chilton for not taking the place of Renter Warden ² | | 10 | 0 0 |

At the Election day dinner the wives of the members were usually present.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|---|----|----|---|
| <i>Expenditure.</i> | <i>Item.</i> | Paid to the Parson of the parish for his tithe | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| | | „ To the Scavenger | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| | <i>Item.</i> | To the poor | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| 1621. | <i>Item.</i> | For a form for the Company to sitt at Pawles | | | |
| | | Crosse to hear the sermon | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| | <i>Item.</i> | Spent at the baking and at the eating of the venison sent | | | |
| | | to the company by Mr. Colt | 1 | 17 | 6 |
| | „ | For money paid to Mr. Chamberlain for the King of | | | |
| | | Bohemia ³ by a precept from the Lord Mayor | 12 | 10 | 0 |

¹ Ever since the Armada scare all the Companies had to store a certain quantity of gunpowder in their halls.

² The post of Renter Warden was one of great importance, and doubtless his duties occupied a considerable amount of time each week; consequently the fine for exemption was heavy.

³ The King of Bohemia, Frederick, son-in-law of King James, the opponent of the Emperor Ferdinand of Austria at the commencement of the Thirty Years' War.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid unto the Kings Majesty for the whole subsidie given unto the Kings Majesty by Act of Parliament, in the 18th and 19th years of his raygne | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| This year the search for Purbeck brought in £9 16s. 6d. | | | |
| 1622. Fined Richard Hide for abusing the Warden | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Fined Thomas London for taking stone unsearched ¹ | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> Paid for two new deal tables for the Hall | 2 | 0 | 0 |

1623.
The Case
of the
Plasterers.

The Masons Company bring before the Court of Alderman the fact that a great quantity of old and defective stonework existing in certain public buildings is being covered over with plaster, instead of being renewed with wrought stone. They are referred to the Commissioners of the Works.

This commission was appointed in 1619, reconstituted in 1625, and continued till 1642 to control the plans of new buildings, with a view to reducing the streets to uniformity. Of this commission, Inigo Jones, the Surveyor-General of Works, was a leading member.

The Company therefore took their case against the Plasterers Company before the commissioners sitting at Guildhall (under the presidency of Inigo Jones), and obtained an injunction against them, and an order from the Lord Mayor's Court was sent to the Plasterers, calling their attention to the matter.

From this date we find constant entries concerning actions taken by the Masons against the Plasterers who offended from time to time in this respect.

King James lent him £30,000 at first, afterwards Parliament granted two subsidies for £200,000 to enable James to assist his fallen son-in-law.

¹ When stone arrived in the river, the Company sent searchers to see if it was of the required thickness before it was allowed to be landed. Any stone found not to be of the proper size was forfeited to the Company, and sold by them for small work.

| | | £ | s. | d. |
|------------|--|---|----|----|
| 1624. | Paid to the poor in Bridwell | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| 1624. | <i>Item.</i> Paid for a supper to the Livery and their wives | | | |
| The Ladies | at the eating of a buck given by William Shipman | | | |
| dine with | an antient member of the Company | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| the | | | | |
| Company. | | | | |

The trouble with the plasterers causes the Company to enter an action against the Plasterers Company, to prevent their mending church windows with mortar instead of stone.

| | | £ | s. | d. |
|-------|---|---|----|----|
| 1625. | <i>Item.</i> Paid for Bread beer and candles ¹ | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| | " Paid at the burial of Benjamin Richardson ² | 0 | 6 | 0 |

The Storage of Wheat in the Granary. The Company ordered to provide twenty-five quarters of wheat, and store it in their granary in case of want.³

1625. The ancient cross in Cheape having been repaired in honour of the king's coronation, the Masons Company attended at "a view" of the work, those members who absented themselves being fined in consequence.

Black and White the Colours of the Company. From the following item, we gather that the colours of the company were black and white, as doubtless was their ancient livery.

Spent on Lord Mayor's day for herbs for Strewings, Wood, Coal, Ribbons, black and white for the Whiflers, &c., &c.

1626. The Company evidently divided with the corporation the fines inflicted on their members by the city, as by the following entry.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Paid to the Chamberlain of London due to the city as the moiety of fines received this last year | x ^s i ^d |
| | £ s. d. |
| 1627. <i>Item.</i> Spent at the Election of Members for the first Parliament of King Charles 1st | 0 13 4 |

¹ This happens every year.

² It was usual to attend the funeral of a member of the Court of Assistants.

³ Besides having armouries, the companies were called on to store wheat in case of famine.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| Ffynes of the Courte. Received of Henry Walton for his fyne for faultie workmanship about the church in the Old Jury . | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Received of Richard Banke for his fyne for faultie workmanship . | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Received of Danniell Challoner for his fyne for coming after the tyme of prayer on the quarter day for Christmas quarter, according to a late order on that behalf | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Received of Thomas Stanley for the like | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Received of Abraham Masters for his fyne for not attending Paules Cross on the day of the King's ¹ Coronation the 27th of March | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Monies paid.

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid for the expenses upon a meeting with the company of Mercers for Ireland business | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| „ Paid Edmund Robarts, Clark of this company for his years fee | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Paid which was spent att a dinner the 1st of August 1636 upon a view then taken of work done by Mr. Walton about the Church St. Olave in the Old Jury | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| „ Paid which was spent at a meeting of the company about the discharging of some prest in the Kings works | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| „ Paid to the Cook for two lambe pyes on Audit day | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| „ Paid to the poore of this parish | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| „ Paid that which was spent att a dinner at The Three Tuns near Holborn Bridge on the Feast of St. Luke where all the Livery and divers of the Yeomanry were present | 1 | 14 | 6 |
| „ Paid for cleaning the Hall after Lord Mayor's day | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| „ Paid for beer and ale on Lord Mayor's day | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| „ Paid for ribbons | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| „ Paid for the use of the tapestry hangings | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| „ Paid for charcole to burn in the Hall | 0 | 3 | 8 |
| „ Paid for a new floor in the court parlour | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Paid for a new desk in the Hall | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> Paid for a copy of the accounts which were passed by the company of Mercers touching in Ireland wherein the company have a share | 0 | 6 | 0 |

1627.

¹ Charles I.

| | | | | |
|---|---|----|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid for a dinner att The Three Tuns when the company | £ | s. | d. |
| | of Bricklayers met this Company | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| „ | Paid in discharge of a Bill of expenses amounting to | | | |
| | £1 os. 11 <i>d.</i> when the Master and Wardens of this | | | |
| | Company and the Master and Wardens of the Brick- | | | |
| | layers met about the suppressing of foreigners employed | | | |
| | by the Earl of Devonshire | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| 1628. | Received of John Robarts the son of Edward Robarts | | | |
| | late citizen also Freemason of London deceased | | | |
| | made free by patrimony, the 13th May, 1628 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| The Company obliged to sell some of its Goods in order to raise Money to pay the Subsidies. | Received by the sale of divers goods heretofore in the | | | |
| | yearly charge of the Renter of the Warden of this | | | |
| | Company, which were sold by consent of the Court | | | |
| | towards the discharge of £30, given by the Com- | | | |
| | pany to Sir Martin Lumley, Knight, for disbursing | | | |
| | of £100 a portion of £300 assessed on this Com- | | | |
| | pany by a vote of common Council for the Kings Majesty | | | |
| | they were one great brass pot £1 6 <i>s.</i> Two dozen platters | | | |
| | great and small, nine saucers, two candlesticks, one basin, | | | |
| | one ewer, two pint pots of pewter weighing 87 lbs. 2 oz. at | | | |
| | tenpence per pound = £3 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> and for plate 15 spoons, 6 gilt | | | |
| | spoons and one bowl in all = | 12 | 4 | 6 |
| 1628. | <i>Item.</i> Paid for a breakfast when the Master, Wardens, | | | |
| | and others of the company met with Stewards, | | | |
| | about the Companies affairs 6 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> For a bottle of | | | |
| | sack for the women on the morrow after the feast at | | | |
| | the Hall 2 <i>s.</i> For the Upholder for hangings then used | | | |
| | 13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> Spent on them and others of the company in | | | |
| | Sack 1 <i>s.</i> in all | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid in several expenses on the morrow of the feasts of St. | | | |
| | Simon and St. Jude viz. for ribbons for colours ¹ for the | | | |
| | whiffers and officers 7 <i>s.</i> For six staves 2 <i>s.</i> and which | | | |
| | was given to the trumpeter 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> | 0 | 11 | 6 |
| „ | Paid which was spent for a supper made for the company | | | |
| | for the burial of Thomas Miles over and about £1 10 <i>s.</i> | | | |
| | given therefore by his widow | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| Feb. 15th, 1627. | <i>Item.</i> For a dinner made for the Mercers Agent in | | | |
| | Ireland and some of the Cooks company | 1 | 10 | 4 |

¹ As before noted, the colours of the Company were black and white.

| | <i>Item.</i> | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------|---|----|----|----------------|
| 1628. | Paid in sundry expenses at several times in and about the restraining of the Plasterers from proceeding in their work about the Churches of St. Michael in Crooked Lane and St. Alphage | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 1629. | Fined Thomas Stanley for coming to the Hall on a general quarter day without his gown | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Fined John Gardiner for coming late on quarter day and being absent from Pauls Church | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| | Paid to a Sergeant employed about arresting of Simpson the Carver ¹ | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 1629. | <i>Item.</i> Paid in expenses in pressing of men for the King's work | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid which was lost by light Gold | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| „ | Paid two Sack of Coals | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| „ | For the use of hangings of tapestry in the Hall at the general Feast there holden | 0 | 13 | 8 |
| „ | Paid for Links on twelfth-day at night | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| „ | Paid for expenses on meeting with the company of Mercers for Ireland business | | | |
| | Received of Thomas Jordan for the carpet which he late gave to the company | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| „ | of the Company of Mercers the sum of | 18 | 16 | 2 ² |
| | being this company's portion out of the Plantation of Ireland. | | | |
| „ | of Thomas Clarke grocer two barrels of old gunpowder weighing 106 lbs. at 8d. a pound | | | |
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid to Mr. Middleton the Master towards the money to be paid by him for the new building in this Hall | 14 | 9 | 7 |



THE MERMAID TOKEN, 1640.

¹ The carvers or "marblers" had become merged into this Company. Stow says of them, "They hold some friendship with the Masons, and are thought to be esteemed among them in Fellowship." Certain it is that the Masons assumed control over the carvers or monumental masons from the earliest records of 1620. See Appendix.

² This was not the rent for one year, but several.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid which was spent at the Mermaid ¹ Tavern in Bread Street on a meeting about the collection for building ² . | 0 | 16 | 2 |
| „ Some old armour ³ sold | 0 | 15 | 10 |
| 1631. Received of several Members of this Company towards the raising to that proportion of corn which was to be provided by this Company for the supplies of this City in the time of dearth ⁵ | 15 | 6 | 6 |
| <i>Item.</i> Paid which was spent at the Castle Tavern for a dinner after a meeting about the suppression of Plasterers working at Guildhall | 0 | 19 | 7 |
| „ Paid for a dinner at the Star ⁴ Tavern | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| „ Paid for the like at the Mermaid on audit day | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| „ Paid at the Star in Coleman Street ⁴ for a dinner on collecting the money assessed for corn ⁵ | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| „ Paid to Mr. Warde the Mealman towards the Company's meal to supply the market | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| 1632. Of James Holmes for his fine for being absent att Mr. ffynes of Courte. Wilsons his funerall | 0 | 1 | 0 |

From the above fine, it is evident that the old custom of attending the obsequies of a departed member of the gild was to a certain extent compulsory.

¹ The Mermaid was a noted old house in the city. As early as 1464 it was one of the haunts of Sir John Howard, whose steward records, anno 1464: "Paid for Wyn at the Mermayd in Bred Street for my master and Syr Nicholas Latimer, Xd ob." In 1603 Sir Walter Raleigh established a literary club in this house, doubtless the first in England; among its members were Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, Seldon, and others. *Vide Hotten's Hist. of Signboards.*

² The tenements belonging to the company were restored at this time.

³ Possibly dating from early Tudor times, and considered useless.

⁴ The Star Tavern, in Coleman Street, was the house most frequented by the Company. It was at this tavern that Oliver Cromwell used to meet some of his party, as was deposed to by one of the witnesses in the trial of Hugh Peters at the Restoration.

⁵ Corn. From a very remote date the Companies of London were required to provide a granary to store up a certain quantity of corn and meal against a bad harvest; also to husband coal between Ladyday and Michaelmas. The granary of the Masons Company was situate near the Bridge House.

1631.
The
Accepted
Masons.

The next item in the expenditure is one of very great interest, as being an important notice of the esoteric character of the Company, and the one that has been previously noticed in the Introduction, proving "living" speculative masonry in London earlier by fifty years than Ashmole's statement of 1682.

It occurs in the middle of the accounts for the year 1631, and is as follows :

*vd m' going abroad & att a meeteing att
the hall about of masons of w^{ch} ^{to be} accepted } vj^s vj^d*

Paid in going abroad and att a meeteing att the Hall about the

Masons that were ^{to be} accepted vj^s vj^d

It is evident that these Accepted Masons were on a different footing to those who were admitted to the freedom of the Company by servitude or patrimony. The word *accepted* only occurs a few times in the whole of the accounts, and from the inventories of the Company's goods, which will be given later on, and the other entries concerning these members, proof is obtained that the *accepted* masons who joined this London masons gild, did so, not necessarily for the benefit of the freedom of the company, but rather for the privilege of attending the Masons' Hall Lodge, at which Ashmole was present in 1682. This, together with the entries of 1620, are the *earliest*¹ post Reformation notices of speculative masonry yet discovered in England.

The following extract shows the Company's share in the expenses of the coronation of Charles I.

£ s. d.

1632. *Item.* Money raised towards the payment of £10 15s.
assessed by Act of Common Council on this Com-
pany towards defraying of the City's charge about the
Pageants erected at the beginning of His Majesty's reign . 6 14 8

¹ Vide Introduction, page 8.

| | | £ | s. | d. |
|--------------|---|---|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid for meatage portorage and weighing of 3 qrs. of meal and for carring thereof | 0 | 7 | 1 |
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid the Miller for grinding 3 qrs. wheat | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 1632. | „ Paid to Mr. Middleton as interest on £100 lent towards the buildings about this house | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> | Monies received towards the raising of £2 10s. assessed on this Company (among the others) for the late murder committed on the body of Mr. John Lamb, Doctor :— | | | |

[Then follows a list of subscribers 6*d.* each.]

John Lamb, the astrologer, was attacked by the London mob on leaving the Fortune Theatre, Finsbury, June 23rd, 1628, and beaten with sticks until rescued. From the injuries received he died two days afterwards. The cause of the assault was his intimacy with the Duke of Buckingham, who was disliked by the citizens; and his reputed crimes of employing magical charms to corrupt chaste women. For the murder of Lamb the city was fined 1,500 marks.

1633. Nicholas Stone, master of the Company.

This famous sculptor and mason, so well known as being the contractor and supervisor of nearly all the work executed by Inigo Jones in London, was born at Woodbury, near Exeter, in the year 1586.

Early in the 17th century he came to London, and for a time lived with one Isaac James, the successor to Richard Stevens, a notable Flemish marble mason. With James he was employed upon the Earl of Northampton's monument at Greenwich. About the year 1612 Stone went to Holland and studied the Dutch School of Ornament. Returning in 1616, he first visited Scotland, where he was employed on various works.

In the year 1619 we find him in London superintending the Banqueting House at Whitehall, and soon after managing the affairs of Inigo Jones. Indeed, from a tradition preserved by Vertue, concerning their burying their joint-stock of ready money

in Scotland-yard during the Civil War, it would seem that Stone was in *partnership* with Inigo Jones.

In 1620 Stone was appointed Master Mason to the king. The following is the grant of office, taken from Walpole's *Anecdotes of Painting in England*.¹



NICHOLAS STONE (1586-1647).

[From Walpole's "*Anecdotes of Painting*," etc.]

A Grant of the Office of Master Mason, A.D. 1620. 1633.

CHARLES by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

To all whome these presents shall come, greeting.

Know yee that wee, of our especiall grace, certaine knowledge and meere motion, and for divers other good causes and considerations us at this present moveing, have given and graunted, and, by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, doe give and graunte to our trusty and wel-beloved servaunt Nicholas Stone the office and place of our Master Mason and Architeckt for all our buildings and reparations within our honor and castle of Windsor, and him the said Nicholas Stone, our said Master Mason and Architeckt for

¹ Dallaway, new ed., Wornum, vol. iii. p. 302.

all our said buildings and reparations within our honour and castle of Windsor aforesaid, wee doe make, ordaine constitute and appointe by these presents.

To have hold execute and enjoy the said office and place of our Master Mason and Architeckt for all our buildings and reparations within our honour and castle of Windsor aforesaid, to the said Nicholas Stone, by himselfe, or his sufficient deputy and deputies, for and dureing the terme of his naturall life ;

And further, of our more ample grace, certeine knowledge and mere motion, wee have given and graunted, and by these presents, for us our heires and successors, we doe give and graunt to the said Nicholas Stone for the executeing of the said office and peace, the wages and fee of twelve pence of lawfull money of England by the day, in as large and ample manner as William Suthis, or any other person or persons heretofore, having executed and enjoyed the said office and place, hath had or ought to have had and enjoyed ; to have and yearly to receive the said wages and fee of twelve pence by the daye, to the said Nicholas Stone and his assignes, from the daye of the date of these presents, for and dureing the naturall life of him the said Nicholas Stone, out of the treasure of us our heires and successors, by the hands of the treasurer and chamberlaines of us our heires and successors there for the time being, at the fower usuall feasts or termes of the yeare, that is to say, at the feasts of the Nativitie of Saint John Baptist, St. Michael the Archangell, the Birth of our Lord God, and the Annuntiation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by even and equall portions yearlie to be paid, together with all the other profitts commodities and allowances to the same office and place due, incident or in anie wise appertayneing, in as lardge and ample manner as the said William Suthis or any other person or persons heretofore haveing executed and enjoyed the said office hath had, or ought to have had and enjoyed.

Although expresse mention, etc.

In witnesse whereof, etc.

Witnesse our selfe at Westminster, the one and twentieth day of Aprill.

Per Breve de Privato Sigillo.

Grant to Nicholas Stone, Master Mason

Pro Nicholas Stone.

The King the twenty-first day of Aprill, granteth to Nicholas Stone the office and place of Master Mason of all the King's build-ings and reparations within the honor and castle of Windsor during his life.—P.S.

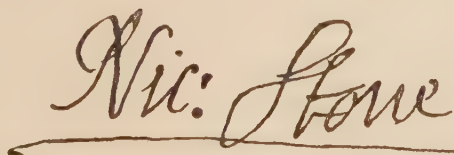
From a diary left by Stone, it appears that for sepulchral monu-ments alone he received no less than £10,889; the highest sum he received being for the monument of Lord and Lady Spencer at Althorp, Lincolnshire, for which he received £600, a very large sum when we consider the value of the £ in those days.

Stone died in 1647, and was buried in S. Martins-in-the-Fields, where a monument was erected to his memory.

According to Timbs, this monument was adorned with his bust finely carved in profile, with tools used in masonry around, such as the compasses, square, etc., etc.

The following lines were inscribed on the tablet :—

“To the lasting memory of Nicholas Stone, Esq., Master Mason to his Majesty; in his lifetime esteemed for his knowledge in Sculpture and Architecture, which his Works in many parts do testify; and though made for others will prove monuments of his fame. He departed this life on the 24th of August, 1647, aged sixty-one, and lyeth buried near the pulpit in this Church.”



AUTOGRAPH OF NICHOLAS STONE.
(From the Books of the Company.)

^{1633.}
Wardens'
Liabilities. The position of the wardens of a city company was one of great importance, though at the same time it had its disadvantages, as will be seen from the next entry relating to the Lord Mayor's precept, "That all the companies should provide a certain quantity of corn in case of want."

Paid Mr. John Shuttleworth late renter Warden of the Company due unto him as by the foot of the last year's account $iiii^l\ x^s\ o^d$ and more which he disbursed when he and Mr. Priestman were committed to Newgate about the corn.

The Company did them honour on their release, as we find the following :—

Paid for a dinner made the day that Mr. Shuttleworth and Mr. Priestman were enlarged out of Newgate Gaol, being the 29th day of November, 1632.

Item. Paid for torch and lincke, etc. $vi^s\ o^d$

No doubt in connection with the above dinner.

^{1633.} It is interesting to find at this date the following entry :—

Paid which was given unto Isaac Gardner a poor brother . . . vi^d

The word brother is only once or twice found in the records. The old masons' poem of the 16th century laid down that masons should call each other Brother ; and the above entry may be a small link with the past.

Isaac Gardner was a freeman of the Company as early as 1620, and paid quarterage.

<sup>Confirmation
of the Arms.
1634.</sup> Paid the x^{th} November 1634 for the approbacon and confir-
macon of the Companys Arms = $iiii^l\ vi^s\ viii^d$.

This was the year of the visitation of the city of London, made by Henry St. George, Richmond Herald, who signed the original grant of arms to the Masons Company as being entered in the visitation,

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----|
| | Paid for mending the hour-glass | vi ^d | | |
| | | £ | s. | d. |
| 1634. | <i>Item.</i> Received of the Company of Gardiners for the use of this Hall | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| | Received of Mr. James Frenche a fine for using some discourteous language in court | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid for a dinner at the Globe Tavern in Fleet St. the 5th of November | 5 | 11 | 1 |
| „ | Paid for Lincks upon Christmas Day at night | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| „ | Paid for the carriage of forfeited stone to the Hall | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| „ | Paid in discharge of two fifteenths for the water course at the Banqueting House ¹ | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 1635. | An entry in the accounts for this year shows that a marble mason, being a member of the Company, was still designated as such, although the marblers as a company had long ceased to exist. | | | |
| <i>Item.</i> | p ^d w ^{ch} was given in charity to ye wife of Francis Gugg, Marbler | ii ^s | vi ^d | |
| | | £ | s. | d. |
| 1636. | The income this year from quarterage, fines, and the result of search of stone produced | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| 1636. | <i>Item.</i> Received of Thomas Jordan deceased the sum of | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| | to be disposed of as the Court think fit. | | | |
| <i>Item.</i> | Paid for painting the Company's Arms at their Granary in the Bridge House | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| „ | Paid which was spent after a meeting before the Lord Mayor with His Majesty's Lieut.-Colonel touching six masons to be impressed for His Majesty's service in the repairing of the Castle Cornett in the Isle of Garnesey | 0 | 15 | 2 |
| „ | Paid for beer at the Hall at the election of Master and Wardens | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| „ | Paid for strewing then | 0 | 0 | 4 |

¹ Whitehall.

Ship Money. Ship money first mentioned in the accounts as follows :—

SHIPP-MONEY.¹

Item. Received wth in y^e time of this accompte of divers members of this brotherhood certain several sums of money assessed upon them for ye raising of two several sums of xl^s (40 shillings) to be paid by this house towards ye provicon for his mates Navic Royall. } XXIXs. IIId. (£1 9s. 3d.)

1636.
Master
Masons. Attention has already been directed to the custom of apprentices becoming master masons on their taking up the freedom of the company.

The following extract explains the various sums, making up the total of one pound three shillings and tenpence, which was payable by the apprentice on becoming free of the company.

*Of Thomas Howard y^e late
Apprentice of Hugh Howard made free
y^e 1st Juny 1635 by way of
gratuitie to this company then a xx
for his admission then to be a master
£ m^o m^o s^o for his entrance then
12 m^o s^o m^o Call*

¹ This ship-money was perhaps the most constitutional act of Charles, although it may have been one of the principal causes of the Civil War. London being a chief port, paid ship-money with the other coast towns before the inland towns were taxed; and it was the taxing the inland towns and villages which gave the opportunity to a discontented country squire, known in history as John Hampden, of posing as a "patriot." Unfortunately for Charles, he relied only on a few advisers, instead of a representative Parliament, which would doubtless have supported him in forming a navy, and in taxing the country at large to provide for such a necessary commercial protection.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Of Thomas ffardell ye late Apprentice of Hugh Jones made free y ^e xiiii th of July 1635, by way of gratuitie to this Companie then xx ^s for his admission then to be a Master iii ^s iiij ^d & for his entrance then vi ^d | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of Thomas Pickton y ^e late apprentice of Hugh Jones for ye like then | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of Walter Mosse y ^e late apprentice of Thomas Jordan y ^e vii day of October 1635 for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of Simon Coates y ^e late apprentice of Henry Walton then for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of William Chamberlen y ^e late apprentice of W ^m Ward then for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of Beniamyn Richardson y ^e son of Beniamyn Richardson late Citizen and Freemason of London deceased being made free by Patrimony ye viii day of ffebruary 1635 for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of Richard Crooke y ^e late apprentice of Mr. W ^m Smith for the like att y ^e time of his making free | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of William Smithe y ^e late apprentice of Mr. John Gardner then for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of Charles Wall y ^e late apprentice of Mr. John Gardner then for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |
| Of William Whithawes y ^e late apprentice of Roger Barnes then for y ^e like | } xxiii ^s x ^d |

From the above it is evident that after serving the usual term of seven years, the apprentice was entitled to the freedom of the Company, and further, that at this date it was customary to take up with the freedom the position or degree of a master of the craft, for which grade or position an extra fee of iii^s iiij^d was payable.

There is no evidence of any particular ceremony attending the position of a master mason ; possibly it consisted of administering another and a different oath from the one taken by the apprentice on being presented. It may be that the bye-laws of that date, now unfortunately lost, contained particulars of this ceremony, together with the oath of the master mason ; of this we cannot speak with certainty.

Concerning the position of a master mason, in the " Defence of

Masonry," printed by Anderson in the 1738 edition of the *Constitutions of Masonry*, attention is drawn to the City Companies.

"There are a Master, two Wardens, and a number of Assistants, to make what the Dissector, may call [if he pleases] a Perfect Lodge in the City Companies. There is the Degree of Enter'd Prentices, Master of his Trade, or Fellow Craft, and Master, or the Master of the Company."

The author of the tract evidently knew of the fact that, when the apprentice had completed his servitude, he usually became a freeman and master of his trade, or, as he calls it, a fellow craft. As we have seen, the custom of the Masons' Company appears to have been as follows :—

After the apprentice had become free from his indenture, according to a usual custom he was entitled to the freedom of the company, which was obtained by the payment of a fee of iii^s iiiii^d, and an extra fee of vi^d for entrance money. The *gratuitie* of xx^s was apparently not extracted before 1623, as previous to that date the sum of xx^s is not found in connection with the freedom of the Company. What this *gratuitie* was for we are unable to surmise in the absence of the minute books of the period. It may, however, have been devoted to entertainment,¹ as the following entry is one of common occurrence.

1626 y^e xxth of October att ye makeing free of Edward Callice . . . vii^s

1637. The following extracts are taken from the years 1637 and 1638 :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid which was spent on election day being given to Mrs. Robarts and the Beadle also for Strewings and Nose-gnifls ² | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| „ Paid after a meeting called for Mr. Kinsman and others to appear for defective work about the Temple Church | 0 | 0 | 5 |

¹ It may have been a payment made instead of providing for a feast.

² At meetings in the hall, the floor was strewn with rushes or other dried herbage

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid in expenses after a meeting of the company at Pauls Church on Candlemas day at night on Links etc . . . | 0 | 11 | 5 |
| „ Paid in discharge of ship money | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Paid in sundry expenses for several journeys made by water and with coach and horses into the country. As to Lambeth, Croyden, Fulham, Hampton Court, Whitehall, to restrain plasterers work on rotten or decayed stone | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Paid in discharge of expenses about the general feast when the Lord Mayor was sworn | 28 | 16 | 1 |
| „ Paid for oysters once | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 1633. Received of Henry Wilson for a fine for appearing in a Fines. borrowed gown, and of William Sterne for lending the gown, each. | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Of Edward Collis for appearing without a gown | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| <i>Item.</i> Paid which was spent at the King's Arms ¹ near the Hall when the company met to agree with their cook . . . | 0 | 5 | 4 |
| Spent when we met about the difference for our standing usurped by the company of Butchers ² | 0 | 15 | 3 |
| 1633. Paid which was spent when the Company waited within Oct. 31. their standing rails at the coming in of the Queen Marie de Medicis Mother of France, viz. : visits England. Paid for stands | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| Paid for carrying poles and board | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| „ the carpenter for rails | 0 | 9 | 3 |
| „ for the hire of blue cloth | 0 | 5 | 7 |
| „ for the porter | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| „ for strewing, links, and faggots | 0 | 2 | 4 |
| „ for wine and beer at the stand | 0 | 5 | 10 |
| „ for whiffers ³ | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| „ for staves | 0 | 0 | 2 |

in place of a carpet. Nosegays were also presented to the assistants, and are constantly mentioned.

¹ The King's Arms was situated near what is now known as King's Arms Yard, Moorgate Street, and gave the street its name.

² This is curious, as the Butchers ranked 24th on the list, the Masons being 40th; therefore, to take up the Mason's stand would be to lower their precedence. There was some other reason doubtless for this act.

³ Whiffers, or ushers. Men with staves to clear the road for a procession.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Paid into the Chamber of London in part of £24 assessed on the Company towards the charge of renewing the City's Charter, | | | |
| by Poll on the Company | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid the Cook for the feast kept on Lord Mayor's day at the Hall . | 24 | 0 | 0 |



WHIFFLER AND HENCHMAN.

1640. William Smith, master of the Company. He died in 1646, and was buried in St. Olave's Church, Hart Street,¹ London, when a tombstone, bearing the Arms of the Company, viz., on a chevron (plain) between three towers, a pair of compasses extended, has the following inscription :—

“ Here Lyeth the body of William Smith
 Citizen and Freemason of London
 Who lived to the age of 66 years
 And departed this life the 25th day of January 1646.”

1641. Once again we find differences occurring between the plasterers and the masons, the latter company again taking their case before Inigo Jones.

¹ Papworth, *Trans. Lodge Quat. Coronati*, vol. iv. p. 247.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----|
| Paid which was laid out when the plasterers were found at work at St. Laurence's Church and in prosecuting them | xviii ^s | x ^d | |
| Paid which was given to the Lord Mayors officer at that time | ii ^s | | |
| Paid which was spent at that time in going by water to Inigo Jones | i ^s | | |
| 1641. Paid for one barrel of Gunpowder | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| The Out- break of the Civil War. Paid for two Musketts, ¹ 14/6 each | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| Paid for two Musketts bandyleers | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Paid for fourteen pound of Match @ 4 ^d per lb. | 0 | 4 | 8 |
| Paid for half a hundred muskett shot | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| 1642. Received of several Members of this Company for their Poll money according to the Statue | 26 | 12 | 0 |
| Received of several Members who were in arrear for Powder money | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Received for the sale of stone ² in the yard | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid which was spent when the Company attended the coming of the King's Majesty from Scotland and for the standing, cloth, and other things | 10 | 18 | 10 |
| Paid for the 12 red russia leather stools in the parlour | 4 | 16 | 0 |
| 1643. ³ Paid at a meeting upon an order of Parliament concerning the Irish business ⁴ | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Paid to the collector for the subsidy raised towards the loan of £40,000 | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| London Paid for ten buckets | 1 | 13 | 4 |
| prepares for withstanding a Siege. „ for painting them | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| „ for ten shovels and spades | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Paid for four Mattocks | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Paid for paper for the whole year | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 1644. Paid to John Shaw the Company's soldier that went out in the Green regiment | 7 | 9 | 0 |
| 1645. Received for two barrels of powder | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Received for two musketts | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Received for a sword | 0 | 8 | 0 |

¹ To add to their stock of arms.

² Forfeited stone was stored in the yard of the hall, and from time to time sold.

³ This year, that fine old cross which stood in Cheapside, was pulled down by an Order of the Parliament, obtained by the fanatics, as being superstitious.

⁴ In consequence of a charge brought against the City Companies for having usurped more land than had been originally granted, fines were inflicted, but their rights maintained.

| | | £ | s. | d. |
|-------|---|-----|----|----|
| | Paid to the collector of the poor of the parish | 1 | 16 | 8 |
| 1642. | Paid the Carpenters bill for shelves whereon the gun- powder and musketts stand and hang | 1 | 13 | 2 |
| 1643. | Paid into the Chamber of London according to precept to be lent to the King's use | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| | Paid which was spent at a meeting at the Guildhall about the loan of £60,000. | 0 | 13 | 4 |
| | Paid for the first two subsidies granted to King Charles in the sixth year of his reign | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| | Paid for a man to watch on Sundays in the streets and at the Church doors at night | 0 | 2 | 6 |

In order to raise money to meet the expenses of
 1645. the Company by reason of the constant calls on them,
 either by the king or the parliament, we find that on Oct. 9th,
 1645, they raised the sum of £120, by a mortgage on part of
 their property, namely, certain tenements adjoining the hall. The
 deed is made between certain members of the Company of the
 one part, and Robert Buckland, of Southwark, of the other, whereby
 the said tenements are let to Robert Buckland for a term of ninety-
 nine years at the yearly rent of one pepper corn, but should the
 members of the Company pay unto the said Robert Buckland the
 sum of £127 4s. before a certain date, then the lease of ninety-nine
 years was at an end.

This is the first of a number of such transactions which were
 necessary to raise funds to meet the requirements of the age.

| | | | | |
|-------|---|----|----|---|
| 1648. | Paid to the smith for a candlestick and a pound of candles | 0 | 3 | 2 |
| | Paid at Campden House to the Committee to sequestration for several assessment | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| | Paid to the Collector for the assessment for Ireland | 0 | 13 | 0 |

1649. King Charles murdered at Whitehall.
 January 30th.

The chief reason of the citizens siding with the Parlia-
 ment in the Civil War was their proximity to that power and their
 unwillingness to resist its orders or demands.

The city, however, showed its *true* character in the election of the Royalist Lord Mayor, Abraham Reynardson, who absolutely refused to proclaim the abolition of Royalty, and was committed to the Tower and heavily fined in consequence; a new mayor was elected who was a known Roundhead, but at the Restoration he took Reynardson's place in the Tower for his pains.

That the war was a great blow to the trade of the St. Paul's. London masons may be illustrated by the case of St. Paul's previous to the outbreak. Subscriptions had been started towards raising the sum of £22,536 to be spent on the restoration of the fabric. To this sum Sir Paul Pindar gave £10,000, and Laud £1,200.

Inigo Jones¹ began the work, assisted by Nicholas Stone, a member, and afterwards master of the Masons Company. At the west end he reared a portico of Corinthian columns, and intended to continue the work of restoration in the same pagan style; the war, however, put a stop to all work of this kind in London. During the war the Parliament made sad havoc with the funds subscribed for the above object. They seized the balance of some £17,000 for the payment of their Roundhead followers, they burnt the rich ecclesiastical needlework for the sake of the gold thread, the silver vessels belonging to the ecclesiastical service were sold for the artillery by Cromwell, and a story was current at the time that Cromwell intended to sell the sacred fabric for a synagogue to the Jews.

It is a fact that the choir was converted into a "stable for the cavalry, and the aisles turned into skittle alleys for the recreation of the "psalm-singing soldiers."

1650. The Commonwealth ordered that January 30th, the anniversary of the death of Charles, should be kept as a day of "Thanksgiving"; hence we find the following item:

¹ Both Inigo Jones and Nicholas Stone were members of the "Society" of Freemasons. According to Anderson, who wrote in 1738, Nicholas Stone is credited by him with having written a valuable MS. history of the society and its antiquities; which MS. it is said, however, was unfortunately destroyed in 1720.

s. d.

Paid which was spent the 30th of January when the Company attended
Pauls being thanksgiving day. 9 2

1650.
Admission by
Acceptance
of Masonry.

The next extract of importance from the accounts occurs under date of 1650, and as it is one of those few notices of the esoteric character of the Company which appear in this record, it cannot be passed over without a few remarks.

*I recd of Thomas Moore junr.
in full of his fine for coming on
the Liuerie & admission uppon
Acceptance of Masonry* } l. m.

*I recd of Richard Herneden
for the like the sum of* } l. m.

*I recd of Mr Andrew Morring
the present warden for the sum of
the same* } xx s.

The extract in question reads as follows:—

1650. *Item. Reced of Thomas Moore junr. in full of his
fine for coming on the Liuerie & admission, uppon Ac-* } iiij^{li}
ceptance of Masonry

Item. Reced of Richard Herneden for the like the sum of iiij^{li}

The sum of £4 paid by each of the above made up their full fine of £10, as may be seen by the following entry, taken from the accounts of the year ending 1648:—

1648. *Item.* Reced of Mr. Moore and Mr. Herneden in
 part of their fine of nyne pounds a peice for coming on } xii^{li}
 ye Livery }

The third portion of the extract states that "Mr. Andrew Mer-
 vin, the present Warden," paid xx^s for "Coming on The Accepcon."
 In other words this was evidently the fee for joining the Masons'
 Hall Lodge of Speculative Masonry. (See *ante*, page 140.)

As before stated, for operative members the fine was £9, and
 for others £10, as there was in the latter case an extra fee of £1
 to be paid for initiation or acceptance of Masonry.

The custom of this company, in common with the other trade
 guilds, was to elect on to the livery or clothing certain of the yeomandry
 or freemen whenever they applied for that position, or when the
 Company desired to add to that division.

The freemen, as we have seen, were either operative masons
 who had obtained the freedom by servitude, or else the sons of
 freemen who claimed admission by patrimony.

At this date there could be little or no inducement for persons
 not in any way connected with the building trade to join this small
 and comparatively poor company. Consequently, where any men-
 tion of such rare occasions does occur, we are naturally curious to
 discover if admission was sought for the purpose of joining the
 esoteric or speculative portion of the Company, which at this date
 still lingered within the precincts of the Masons' Hall.

The statement that Mr. Thomas Moore, junr., and Mr. Richard
 Herneden were elected *after* and "upon" their acceptance of
 Masonry can leave but little doubt that initiation into speculative
 masonry was necessary BEFORE they could be admitted to member-
 ship, and join the Livery of the Masons Company.

Thus, it seems clear that acceptance of Masonry was one, if not
 the only means by which a person in no way connected with the
 Company by trade or blood became eligible for membership. This
 course was taken in lieu of being apprenticed, and thus the new

member became an *accepted* free mason.¹ This could always be arranged by his being received into the lodge of speculative masonry which was held in the Hall of the Company; when the old Masons' Gild legend, or old charges, was doubtlessly read over to him, and the pass word with its ceremonies, or as it was termed in Scotland, the *mason-word*, being imparted to him after he had taken a solemn oath of secrecy. This custom, which fell into disuse early in the eighteenth century, doubtless gave rise to the tradition² that before a man could join the Masons Company he must be initiated into the mysteries of speculative masonry.

The records of the operative Masons' Lodge at Edinburgh prove beyond doubt that many individuals of high social rank joined the fraternity in Scotland about this date, as will be seen from the following extracts taken from their minute-book.³

"The 3 day off Joulay 1634. The quhilk day the Right honirabell my Lord Alexander is admitet felowe off the Craft by Hew Forest diken, and Alexander Nesbet Warden; and the hell rest off the mesteres off mesones off Edenbroch; and therto eurie mester hath supscrinet with ther handes or set to ther markes."

These records also show that in 1640 "Alexander Hamilton, generall of the artelerie of thes kingdom," was admitted to be "felow and Mr. of the forsed Craft."

¹ "Accepted free mason." This term may have its origin in the fact that on initiation or joining speculative masonry a man became an accepted mason; after being admitted to the Freedom of the *Company* of Masons he became an accepted free Mason, or a Free and Accepted Mason.

'Tis *This* and 'tis *That*,
They cannot tell *what*
Why fo many great Men of the Nation
Should Aprons put on
To make themselves one
With a *Free* and an *Accepted* *Mafon*.

—*Old Song*, circa 1723.

² See *The Constitutions of Masonry*, by Anderson, ed. 1723, p. 82. Also the extract given in this volume, *post* p. 249.

³ Lyons, *History of the Lodge of Edinburgh*.

On the 27th December, 1667, "Sir Patrick Hume, of Polwart, Barronet," was admitted as a "fellow of craft."

These extracts are useful in showing that the speculative side of operative masonry had at this early date some attraction to the educated and curious, as well as to the operative craftsman.

Cromwell obtained £150,000 from the City in order to proceed to Ireland. All the Companies were assessed to raise the required sums; we find the following:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| Paid the several bills of Taxes to the Commonwealths use . . . | 4 | 14 | 0 |

Also the Protector's coming into the city was the occasion of expenses to the Companies.

| | | | |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid several men for their service on the Lord Protector's coming into London | 0 | 4 | 10 |
| Paid at a Meeting for entertaining the Lord Protector in the City . | 9 | 4 | 9 |
| Spent 23rd of May at attendance on Thanksgiving day ¹ . . . | 0 | 14 | 2 |

1655-6. The prefix FREE in this year was dropped, and the Company styled the Worshipful Company of Masons.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| 1658. Paid for a staff and silvering the same for the Officer to carry before the Company | 13 | 12 | 6 |
| Paid Roger Lewis for the case for the staff | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 1659. Paid for a dinner at the first choice of Parliament men ² | 0 | 15 | 0 |

1660. May 20. The Restoration of the Monarchy. John Evelyn,³ writing in his Diary under this date, states that the triumphal entry of King Charles into London took place about 2 p.m., he having come from Rochester. The crowds of joyful citizens were so anxious to see

¹ The anniversary of the Battle of Worcester.

² Barebone's Parliament, dissolved by General Monk, after a meeting with the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen; when the proposals for the Restoration of the Monarchy were heralded with joy; the citizens roasting the rump in the streets to show their dislike to the remnant of the Long Parliament, and the Protectorate.

³ John Evelyn, the Royalist, was born in 1620, and from the year 1640 to 1705 he kept a diary of events that came under his notice. Evelyn died Feb. 27th, 1706.

His Majesty, that in consequence of their crowding round his person, the journey through the City occupied seven hours, and it was not till 9 p.m. that he reached Whitehall. The day was kept as a general holiday, the streets decked with tapestry hangings, and all the Companies in their gowns stood in their proper places to welcome the king.

The following items, taken from the old account-book, will illustrate the part the Masons took in the proceedings :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|-----------------|
| 1660. | | | |
| Paid for a soldier for the company | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Paid for supper at the receiving of His Majesty | 3 | 15 | 11 |
| Paid for ribbon | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Paid for timber for the stand | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Paid for Iron work for the stand | 1 | 7 | 9 |
| Paid for the carpenter for setting up the stand | 3 | 6 | 11 ^a |
| Paid for carrying stand into Southwark ¹ | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| Paid for carrying stand to Ludgate Hill | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Paid for twenty boards for stand | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Paid for watching the stand | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Paid for dinner when the King came into the City ² | 3 | 15 | 0 |
| Paid for forms at Pauls | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Charles II. Paid for a dinner when His Majesty rode triumphly 1661. through the city, April 22nd 1661 ³ | 1 | 19 | 3 |
| Paid for staves for the whiffers | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Paid for ribbon | 0 | 16 | 2 |
| Paid for watching the rails | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Paid the carpenter for setting up the rails | 4 | 0 | 0 |

Samuel Pepys gives, in the Diary, an interesting account of this procession, which he viewed from a room in the house of a flag maker in Cornhill. In his usual quaint style he remarks,—

“We had a good room to ourselves, with wine and good cake, and saw the show very well.”

The next time the Company were in holiday attire was on the

¹ To meet the King coming from Rochester.

² The expenses of the late troublesome times necessitated small outlays on entertainments.

³ When the King came into the City after his coronation.

occasion of the king's marriage, when we find the following items of expenditure :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| 1663. Paid the charges upon the water ¹ in attending the King | | | |
| The King's and Queen | 12 | 9 | 6 |
| Marriage. Paid for a dinner on Lord Mayor's day | 30 | 11 | 0 |
| Paid for three bottles of sack in St. Paul's Churchyard | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 1664. Received of the Company of Mercers being the Com- | | | |
| pany's dividend for their land in Ireland (<i>several</i> | | | |
| <i>years' interest</i>) | 51 | 10 | 0 |
| Paid the Clerk for a book and writing the Ancient Orders of the | | | |
| Company | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Paid when the Company dined at Islington | 2 | 12 | 7 |
| Paid for water passage at the search of twelve barks of stone | 0 | 7 | 6 |

The question of procuring a Charter. The Company having existed as a corporate body by prescription from an early date, and later by enfranchisement, is at length moved to consider the question of procuring a Royal Charter. This, however, was not accomplished until 1677.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid to Serjeant Broome for his advice about the Charter | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid for three new buckets and repairing nine old ones | 1 | 3 | 6 |
| Paid the Painter for Painting the Kings Arms, and the Buckets | 7 | 6 | 0 |

The Plague. 1665. The year of the Plague. Nothing of importance is chronicled this year with respect to the history of that dreadful visitation, and the meetings of the Court appear to have been held at the Hall according to custom.

One document of importance, however, bears date of June 14th, 1665 ; this is an inventory of the goods belonging to the Company, and a perusal of it throws a light on the subject as to whether the Masons of London were what is now known as Freemasons.

Before the year 1654, the Company is styled in its yearly accounts, The Company of ffremasons of the city of London ; but after that date it becomes the Company of Masons.

¹ At Hampton Court, when the Lord Mayor and Aldermen went with the City Companies to congratulate the King and Queen on their marriage, June 2nd, 1662.

The Masons
and the
"accepted"
Free Masons.

It has been remarked that this Company had no connection at any time with the "Society" of Free Masons, which before the time of the Reformation had members termed freemasons in most parts of the country, working upon the various religious edifices there in progress. But, as I have said before, it is my humble opinion that ever since the masons of London formed themselves into a brotherhood, or gild, for their mutual protection and assistance, so long did they number among their members certain masons who were also members of the "Society."

As stated in the Introduction, the word "accepted" has never been used by the Company as a term for any of its ordinary members; they have always been known as Assistants, Liverymen, and Yeomen, or members of the "Yeomandry." But the word "accepted" occurs in this inventory, and it is applied to a list of certain of the members, which was hung up in the parlour of the Hall, in what we are told was a fair inclosed frame with a lock and key.

Now unless this list was of importance there would be no need for protecting it from any unlawful addition of extra names. It was, we may take it, a list of the members¹ of the Company, and others, who were also members of the "Society of Freemasons" which had survived the downfall of the Gothic age and the clerical jurisdiction.

Masons'
Marks.



There is another item on the list of goods which requires explanation, and that is: The book of constitutions defined as, *One other book of Constitutions*. This book is doubtless the same volume which is described in a later inventory, taken after the fire, where it is termed, *The book of the Constitutions of the Accepted Masons*; in the same inventory, the List of Accepted Masons enclosed in a frame with a lock and key is also mentioned, showing that both before and after the fire the Company had on its

¹ It may have been a list of only those non-operative members of the Company; but being members of the Lodge, were hence termed "accepted" masons, to signify that they had no connection with the trade or craft.

freedom members of the old "Society." And here I may mention that in the old account-book, under date 1655, one Richard Herrindine, or Herrendine, one of the auditors, unable to sign his name, made his mark, which is the well known Masonic symbol of the square and compasses; and I have no doubt that, were the pre-Reformation documents in existence, many symbolical marks would be found recorded in those ancient pages.

From the books of the Company that remain, the following list contains all the marks that are to be found in their pages:—

| | | |
|-------|------------------------------|---|
| 1621. | James Gilder |  |
| 1626. | Timothy Townsend |  |
| 1626. | John Brown |  |
| 1630. | William Dorbar |  |
| 1630. | Thomas Priestman |  |
| 1640. | John Hall |  |
| 1646. | John Collis |  |
| 1646. | John Fitzwilliam |  |
| 1655. | Richard Herrindine |  |
| 1666. | Edward Sleamaker |  |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|------------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| 1667. | William Bosworth | . | . | . | . |  |
| 1669. | Francis Hodges | . | . | . | . |  |
| 1670. | Henry Padgett | . | . | . | . | <i>H</i> |

The following Inventory occurs in the Quarterage Book, which commences in 1663 :—

“AN INVENTORY OF SUCH GOODS AS ARE REMAINING
IN AND ABOUT THE HALL, AND DELIVERED INTO
THE CHARGE OF THE PRESENT MASTER AND WARDENS.”

The Inventory
of June 14th,
1665.

Imprimis,—

In the Hall.

The Kings Arms newly painted and in a frame.

Twelve Buckets.

Two large side tables.

One Upper table.

Seven forms.

A desk.

A court cupboard.

A Table of orders.

The Masons Arms in frames.

One little frame hanging on ye screene.

Item. In the Yard, eight staves to hold the streamers

In the Parlour. One long high table.

A short table to write on.

One pair of Andirons.¹

Twelve good leather chairs.

Twelve new green cushions.

Two pictures of the King and Queen, and the Kings Arms

A key for the Granary.²


Six Streamers.

Two Streamers with the Kings Arms.

¹ Fire dogs or bars for supporting the burning logs.

² At the Bridgehouse.

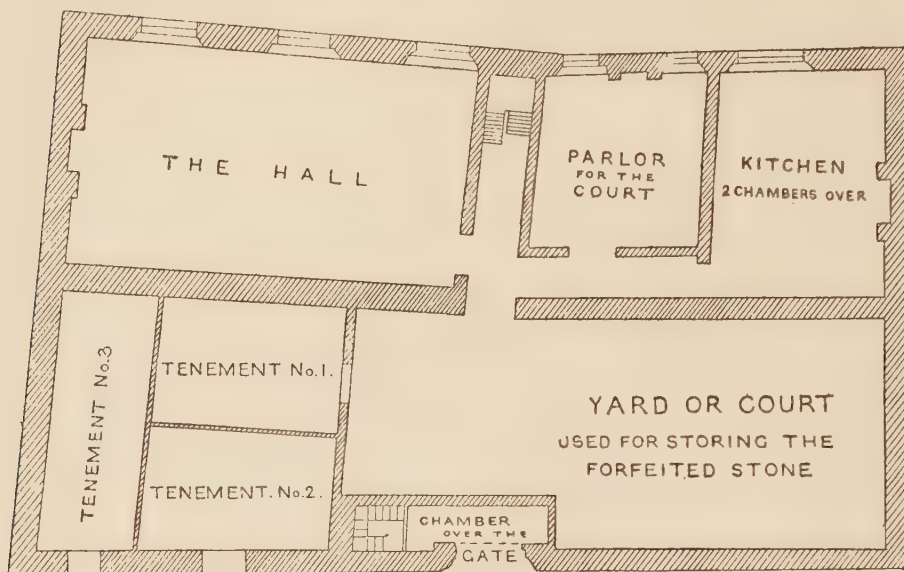
One streamer with the Trinity (see *ante*, page 79).¹
 One Bible and one service book.
 The Massards.
 One Book called Sebastian Serlio.
 And one book with the constitutions which Mr. fflood gave.
 One other book of Constitutions.²
 One trunk in the cupboard, and a box in that trunk, wherein are the Writings.
 One Green carpet.
 One silver bowl, which hath Mr. Edward Gerrards name on it, which he gave to the Company the 6th July, 1647.
 Two flaggon Pewter Potts
 Two table cloths, the gift of Mr. Middleton.
 One dozen napkins with a work through the middle marked FFE.
 A Pewter chamber pot marked FF FF, the gift of Mr. Ward.
 Two dozen pewter saucers.
 Five marble salts, the gift of Mr. Marshall.
 A Pewter basin, marked FF, given by Mr. Forbar, weight four pounds three ounces.
 Four dozen and eight spoons.
 One Paire of gold weights.
 One Silver tankard, being the gift of Mr. Edward Marshall.
 One gilded wine cup, Mr. Joshua Marshall's gift.
 One barrel shot.
 One staff of brasill,³ tipped with silver, to be carried before the Company.
 The (Acts) of Common Councell concerning the search of stone.
 One sword and belt.
 A Collar of bandileers.
 The names of the accepted Masons in a faire inclosed frame with lock and key.
 Two bowls tipped with silver and silver gilt, Marked at the bottom

P*PT 1578R and I  T.

¹ The banner of the Holy Trinity, described before on page 79.

² See Inventory of 1676.

³ Brasill, or Brazil, is a hard wood, used in dyeing to give a red colour. It is mentioned by Chaucer, *Cant. Tales*; *The Accounts of the Grocers Company in 1453* (Heath, p. 322); and Harrison's *Description of England*, p. 233; also in Quarles' *Emblems*: "Are my bones brazil, or my flesh of oak?"



HAZLEWOOD ALLEY, NOW MASONS AVENUE.

GROUND PLAN OF MASONS HALL BEFORE 1660.

From this inventory we are enabled to form some idea of the hall of the Company as it may have been for many generations previous to the Great Fire.

Masons'
Hall.

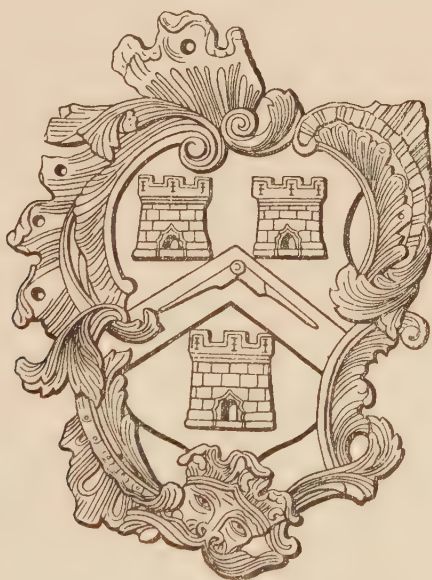
We know from leases and other documents that were¹ executed in order to raise money from time to time on the security of the hall and buildings, that the property consisted of a plot of ground situated in a lane between Basinghall Street and Coleman Street, originally known as Hazlewood Alley; that on this plot of ground was built the hall and certain tenements; that there was a gateway serving as an entrance, with a chamber or lodge over it for the porter; that this opened on a small court or yard, which served as a storage for forfeited stone; that at one side of the courtyard was the hall, a long building with a screen, and doubtless a minstrel's gallery over, together with a parlour for the meetings of the court,

¹ Extracts occur in a list of the documents dated 1722.

and a kitchen, with three chambers and a garret over them, usually occupied by the clerk or beadle.

At one end of the yard were some low buildings, termed tenements, and let to the widows of freemen of the Company.

In the hall was the upper table across one end for the members of the Court of Assistants to sit at; down the two sides of the hall were two long side tables for the accommodation of the liverymen and yeomanry; a desk for the clerk to read notices from, and a cupboard for the court gowns. On the walls were hung the muskets, swords, and other military accoutrements (the Company not having a separate room for the armoury). The king's arms and the arms of the Company were also displayed, together with the rules or orders for the time being.



CARVED PANEL WITH THE COMPANY'S ARMS.

*[In the possession of the author, size 20 inches by 14 inches.
Probably at one time on the screen in the hall.]*

In the parlour was the court table and a clerk's table. The plate belonging to the Company, when not displayed in the hall, was kept here, as was also the rest of the Company's goods and chattels.

It was doubtless in this parlour that the members of the Society of Freemasons held from time to time their meetings for the purpose of initiating and passing new members.

The Companies and the Coal Merchants, 1665.

The position the Masons Company held at this time may be gathered from a document,¹ dated 1665, giving the number of chaldrons of coals required to be kept in store, and retailed, to defeat the combination of the dealers who had entered into a confederacy to keep up the price of this necessary commodity. Every hall in the city became a coal shed, and the Companies retailers of coal. The greatest quantity of coal was required to be kept by the Merchant Taylors: viz. 750 chaldrons. The lowest, by the Woolmen, Bowyers, and Fletchers, 3 chaldrons each. The Masons are credited with keeping 22 chaldrons.

The Charter, 1665.

We notice in the accounts for the year the amount subscribed by the Company towards the sum of £100,000, lent by the City towards the expenses of the Dutch war, also that the question of obtaining a charter of incorporation, was evidently before the court, doubtless in consequence of their position as a company by prescription, that is, by antient custom and the goodwill of the court of aldermen, which in these modern times was not considered a sufficiently sound foundation to protect their trade against foreign, *i.e.* country competition.

| | | | | |
|-------|---|-----|----|----|
| | | £ | s. | d. |
| 1665. | Received of Mr. Edward Marshall as a loan . . . | 300 | 0 | 0 |

Edward Marshall;

Spent when the Master and Wardens viewed the writing in the

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hall | 0 | 6 | 8 |
| Paid the Clerk of Carpenters' Hall for the copy of a Charter ² | 0 | 8 | 0 |

¹ Mentioned by Dr. Hughson in his *History of London*.

² The Company were contemplating petitioning for a charter, and borrowed that of the Carpenters as a guide for framing one suitable for themselves.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Spent after a Court of Assistants when the Lord Mayor's letter to the Company for lending £300 to the King was read | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Spent after attending the Court of Aldermen to get the Company excused from lending the £300 | 0 | 4 | 11 |
| Paid to the Chamber of London, which was lent to the Company by His Majesty | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid to the Clerk for a lease of the Hall to a Mr. Edward Marshall for 51 years for a security for the money borrowed ¹ | 0 | 14 | 0 |

The
Bye-laws. The question of obtaining a charter had, as we have seen in the previous year, been under the consideration of the court, who had taken counsel's advice on the subject. This had no doubt been brought about by the great difficulty experienced by the Company in enforcing the ancient bye-laws on all persons practising the craft of masonry in London; greater freedom and independence having arisen among the working class during the last sixty years, in consequence of the abolition of the statutes concerning labourers by Queen Elizabeth.

In 1665 we find the following notice of the proposed charter :

| | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|
| Paid after a meeting about a Charter of the company | 19 | 0 |
| Also spent after a general meeting of the company to have the Charter read | 13 | 4 |

This Charter would in all probability have been petitioned for without further delay, had not the Company been suddenly paralysed by the Great Fire of September, 1666.

1666.
The Great
Fire. The Great Fire of London has so often been described that its origin, course, and effect is one of the best known events in the history of the city. How that on the night of the 1st of September, 1666, the oven of the king's baker, one Faryner, situated in Pudding Lane, became overheated, set light to a beam in the chimney, and before assistance could be procured, the flames

¹ To pay the sum of £200 lent to the king; this was paid back to the Company with about 25 per cent. interest in four years' time.

spread to such an extent, that before midnight several houses in the district were consumed, and others in flames.

Samuel Pepys, writing in his diary under date of Sept. 2nd, says: "Jane called us up about three in the morning to tell us of a great fire she saw in the city, so I rose and slipped on my night-gown, and went to her window; and thought it to be on the back-side of Mark Lane at the farthest, and so to bed."

However, the next day, Sunday, the fire was raging with greater violence, and with an easterly wind was rapidly advancing towards the Exchange and St. Paul's.

Monday, the 3rd, saw the fire still consuming the fated city, which, being for the most part built of half-timbered houses, easily fell a prey to the devouring element; the more so on account of a long drought that had continued for many months previously, rendering the wooden buildings almost as inflammable as matchwood.

Tuesday, the 4th, and Wednesday, the 5th, were occupied by the citizens in blowing up large areas with gunpowder, and thus eventually arresting the progress of the conflagration.

The destruction to property was enormous, upwards of 436 acres of the city were in ruins, 13,200 houses, 89 churches, and 400 streets were consumed during the four days that the fire raged. Charles and many of the court were indefatigable in their attempts to stay the destruction, and personally superintended the efforts of the citizens.

The extent of the area laid waste may be roughly sketched by drawing a line from the Tower to the National and Provincial Bank in Bishopsgate Street, from there in a direct line to the top of Coleman Street, along London Wall to Cripplegate, thence down to Newgate Street, along over Snow Hill to the Holborn Viaduct, from thence in a slanting line through Fetter Lane to the Temple; this space bounded on the south by the river was one heap of smoking ruins.

John Evelyn, who was commissioned by the king to remain at

Fetter Lane to check the fire, gives a graphic description of his first journey through the city after the flames had subsided. Writing under date of Sept. 7th, 1666, he says :

Evelyn's
Account of
London after
the Fire.
1666.
Sept. 7th.

" I went this morning on foote from Whitehall as far as London Bridge, through the late Fleet Street, Ludgate Hill, by St. Paules, Cheapside, Exchange, Bishopsgate, Aldersgate, and out to Moorefields, thence through Cornhill, etc., with extraordinary difficulty clambering over heaps of yet smoking rubbish and frequently mistaking where I was.

" The ground under my feet so hot, that it even burnt the soles of my shoes. At my return I was infinitely concerned to find that goodly Church St. Paules now a sad ruine, and that beautiful portico (for structure comparable to any in Europe, as not long before repaired by the late King) now rent in pieces, flakes of vast stone split asunder, and nothing remaining entire but the inscription in the architrave shewing by whom it was built, which had not one letter of it defaced. It was astonishing to see what immense stones the heate had in a manner calcined, so that all the ornaments, columnes, freezes, capitals, and projectures of massive Portland stone flew off, even to the very rooffe, where a sheet of lead covering a great space (no less than 6 akers by measure) was totally mealted ; the ruines of the vaulted rooffe falling broke into St. Faith's which being fill'd with the magazines of bookes belonging to the Stationers, and carried thither for safety, they were all consumed, burning for a weeks following.

" It is also observable that the lead over the Altar at the East end was untouch'd, and among the divers monuments, the body of one Bishop remained entire.

" Thus lay in ashes that most venerable Church, one of the most antient pieces of early piety in the Christian world, besides were 100 more.

" The lead, yron works, bells, plate, etc., mealted ; the exquisitely wrought Mercers Chapell, the sumptuous Exchange, the August

fabriq of Christ Church, all the rest of the Companies Halls, splendid buildings, arches, enteriers, all in dust ; the fountaines dried up and ruin'd, whilst the very waters remain'd boiling ; the voragos of subterranean cellars, wells, and dungeons, formerly warehouses, still burning in stench and dark clowds of smoke, so that in five or six miles traversing about, I did not see one load of timber unconsum'd, nor many stones but what were calcin'd white as snow. The people who now walk'd about the ruines appear'd like men in some dismal desart, or rather in some greate citty laid waste by a cruel enemy ; to which was added the stench that came from some poore creatures bodies, beds and other combustibile goods.

“ Sir Tho. Gressham's statue, tho' fallen from its nitch in the Royal Exchange, remain'd entire, when all those of the Kings since the Conquest were broken to pieces ; also the standard in Cornehill, and 2 Elizabeth's effigies, with some armes on Ludgate, continued with little detriment, whilst the vast iron chaines of the city streets, hinges, barrs and gates of prisons were many of them mealted and reduced to cinders by the vehement heate. Nor was I yet able to passe through any of the narrower streets, but kept the widest ; the ground and aire, smoake and fiery vapour, continu'd so intense that my haire was almost sing'd and my feete unsufferably surbated.

“ The bie lanes and narrower streetes were quite filled up with rubbish, nor could one have possibly knowne where he was, but by the ruines of some Church or Hall, that had some remarkable tower or pinnacle remaining.”

From this description we can easily imagine how utterly prostrate the Company must have been having lost its hall, and each member doubtless almost at his wit's end to know how to tide over the terrible catastrophe.

1667. It is not until the next year's accounts that we come across any entry bearing on the fire.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid Labourers set at work at Masons Hall | 1 | 9 | 6 |

This was doubtless the first attempt at discovering the site of what was once the hall.

We also find the Charter question again to the front.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid Mr. Burke for his pains touching the Charter | 5 | 0 | 0 |

1668.
The Masons
and the Fire
Brigade.

After the fire of 1666 the Court of Common Council order that the twelve great Companies should provide themselves with fire-engines, buckets and ladders, the smaller Companies also to be provided with buckets and ladders. The Masons Company, with certain others mentioned, was to provide two master workmen, four journeymen, eight apprentices, and sixteen labourers (thirty men in all), to be ready on all occasions of fire to attend the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs for extinguishing the same.¹

1668.

This year the following entry may be found in the *Calendar of State Papers*, domestic series, vol. ccxiv. p. 408: "1667, Aug. 22nd. The King to the Lord Mayor. There being great want of Masons and Bricklayers to carry on the important works at Sheerness, he is to summon the Master and Wardens of those companies, and order as many able workmen to be sent as shall perfect the work before the season of the year prevents."

The account book has the following entry relating to this order :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid for charges of impressing men, and going to Sheerness | 3 | 13 | 5 |

This work at Sheerness is mentioned by Pepys in his diary, who, writing under date of Aug. 18th, 1665 (the year of the plague), says: "To Sheerness, where we walked up and down, laying out the ground to be taken in for a yard to lay provisions for cleaning and repairing of ships, and a most proper place it is for the purpose.

¹ Maitland.

Late in the dark to Gravesend, where great is the plague, and I troubled to stay there so long for the tide."

1667. During this year the Company met for the purpose of considering the question of rebuilding the hall with Portland stone.

The
Company's
Books not
burnt in
the Fire.

There is also an item in the accounts as follows :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|-------|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid Mr. Warden Banckes for a pair of gloves, given by the Company to Mr. George Dowswell late Master, for his care in preserving the companys Writings and goods in the late dreadful time of fire. | | | 1 0 0 |

From this it is evident that the Company did not lose all their papers and books in the fire, as has often been said.¹ What is more likely is that they were sold much later as waste paper, as had there been a serious loss of documents, we should expect to find some notice of the fact in the books of the period, but we do not. On the contrary we do find, as will be seen by later inventories, that all the old documents, etc., were existing so late as 1722, including some dated previous to the Reformation.

The fact that the writings and goods of the Masons Company were preserved from the conflagration by the master is not surprising, seeing that it was not until early on the Tuesday, on the third day of the fire, that Coleman Street was consumed ; consequently, the whole of Monday, September 3rd, was probably spent by the citizens in removing what goods were likely to suffer by the approaching element.

From advertisements in *The London Gazette*, for the week ending September 10th, 1666, may be seen the following :—

¹ The fact that the Grant of Arms dated 1472, certain leases, etc., concerning the Hall, and other pre-Reformation documents mentioned so late as 1722, proves the above.

Notice is hereby given, That Sir Robert Viner is now settld in the Affrican house near the middle of Broad-street London, where he intends to manage his affairs (as formerly in Lumbard-street) having by the good providence of God been entirely preserved by a timely and safe removal of all his concerns, almost twenty-four hours before the furious fire entered Lumbard-street.

Also Alderman Meynell, and Alderman Backwell, with divers others of Lumbard Street, being likewise preserved in their estates, do intend to settle in a few daies in or near Broad Street.

Other merchants no doubt followed the example of the above, and within an incredibly short time London was in full commercial activity.

As for the Masons Company, the fire was, to a certain extent, a benefit, as it gave employment to many, and placed the Company again in an important position amongst the other gilds.

^{1668.}
The Rebuilding of Masons' Hall. This year the Company commenced the rebuilding of their hall. From the items extracted from the accounts of the next few years, it will be seen how they first of all borrowed the sum of £500, and then taxed themselves in order to raise another £500. The money thus obtained, the work soon began, and at the end of the second year after the foundation-stone was laid, they were once again under their own roof.

In the meanwhile the Company of Carpenters, whose hall had escaped destruction, and who, as we have seen, were on friendly terms with the masons, gratuitously allowed them the use of their hall.

The work was delayed some time by reason of the difficulty of defining the exact boundary lines, and it was necessary to have this properly arranged at the Chamberlain's office.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|----|
| 1668, 1669. Paid for clearing away rubbish of the Hall and Parlour | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Received of the Chamberlain of London for money lent to the King and for interest | 247 | 10 | 0 |
| Paid the Chamberlain to set out the company's ground | 0 | 6 | 8 |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| 1669. Spent at the measuring of the Hall and Parlour | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Spent at a meeting to lay the foundation of the Hall and Parlour | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Spent in treating with Mr. Needham at several times about his ground | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| Paid to Mr. Tally for charcoal, bread, beer, tobacco and pipes | 0 | 12 | 6 |
| Spent at a tavern with Mr. Carpenter about the Company's lights | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Paid Mr. Marshall (His Loan) | 200 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Coach hire to carry the money | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Paid at a meeting at the New Tavern near Guildhall | 0 | 19 | 6 |
| Paid for links and given to the drawer | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Given to the man that found the well | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Given to the men for drinks | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Paid for carting away a hundred and forty loads of rubbish | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Given the labourers, workmen, and carters | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 1670. Received from the Members of the company toward rebuilding the Hall | 243 | 15 | 0 |
| Borrowed of Mr. George Dowswell | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid at a meeting of the committee for rebuilding the Hall and Parlour | 0 | 19 | 7 |
| Paid for the carriage of forty tons of Portland Stone to Hall | 6 | 12 | 11 |
| Paid for the freight of the forty tons of Portland Stone | 24 | 0 | 0 |

The work of rebuilding was done by members of the Company, some of whom were carpenters by trade. The accounts of the various trades were as follows :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|-----|----|----|
| Paid Messrs. Shadbolt and Shorthose for the Masons work in all | 145 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Mr. Ellen for the Bricklayers bill | 217 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid Mr. Brittain for the Carpenters Bill | 137 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid Mr. Sleamaker for the Joiners bill | 147 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid Mr. Blunt the Plasterer | 40 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid Mr. George Plumber and Glazier | 35 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid the Carver | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid the Smith | 7 | 5 | 0 |

We thus see that the cost of the hall reached somewhere about £800 : a sum equal in these days to about £2000.

"Foreigners."
1669 and 1670.

In the history of the Carpenters Company,¹ Jupp draws attention to a petition that was this year presented to the Court of Aldermen concerning the foreign workmen that had flocked to London in consequence of a statute passed (18 Car. II. c. viii., see p. 192), allowing workmen who were not free of the companies connected with the building trade, to work anywhere within the city for the space of seven years from the date of passing the statute. He says (p. 282):—

"Several members of the Company (Carpenters) applied to the Court complaining of 'their grievances and sufferings by forrayne Carpenters' and were informed that the Court had joined with other handicraft Companies in a petition to the Court of Aldermen for their aid and assistance. The Companies who joined with the Carpenters in the petition were the Masons Bricklayers Joiners and Plaisterers, the matter was referred by the Court of Aldermen to a Committee of that body, who by the report dated 22nd of April 1670 ordered the several Companies to draw up for the use of the Committee 'their usages and customs of the freemen in conformity to the Statutes in force, and their charters granted to them, and to set down the practises of the 'forrayners,' and a list of those using their trades without right thereunto.

"It is not known whether the Companies obtained any effectual redress from the Court of Aldermen."

Thomas
Strong.
1670.
Sept. 15th.

In the quarterage book of the Company, under date of 1670, we find the following entry:—

"Thomas Strong made free (by redemption by an order of ye court of Aldermen dated ye 8th day of September last) ye 15th of September 1670 and in ye 22nd year of King Charles ye second, and paid £1 3s. 2d.

In the same year we find he is chosen one of the stewards, and pays his fine of £6.

This Thomas Strong, who was the master mason of St. Paul's, under Sir Christopher Wren, was the eldest of six sons of one

¹ *History of the Carpenters Company*, by E. B. Jupp. London, 1887. 8vo.

Valentine Strong,¹ of Taynton,² near Burford, in the county of Oxon, mason and quarry owner.

Thomas Strong was the builder of part of Trinity College, Oxford, and there made the acquaintance of Dr. Christopher Wren. In the year 1667, immediately after the great fire, artificers were invited by Act of Parliament to rebuild the city of London, and Thomas Strong, then owner of the quarries at Taynton, provided a great quantity of stone for the purpose, and sent the same to London; he also went up himself and took with him a number of his own masons from Oxfordshire—a step rendered easy by the passing of a Statute,³ by which was ordained that all carpenters, bricklayers, masons, plasterers, joiners, and other artificers to be employed in rebuilding the city, who were not free-men of the said city, “shall, for the space of seven years next ensuing, and for so long time after as until the said buildings shall be fully finished, have, and enjoy, such

¹ Valentine Strong died in 1662, and was buried at Fairford, Glos., where a tablet to his memory runs thus :—

Here lyeth the body of Valentine Strong, Free Mason
He departed this life
November
A.D. 1662

Here's one that was an able workman long
Who divers houses built, both fair and Strong;
Though Strong he was, a Stronger came than he
And robb'd him of his life and fame, we see:
Moving an old house a new one for to rear,
Death met him by the way, and laid him here.

This Valentine Strong was most likely free of the Masons Company of Oxford, which Company was incorporated in 1604; its members are styled Freemasons in the accounts of the new buildings at S. John's College, Oxford, in 1633. See Gould's *History*.

² The stone from the Taynton quarries, Oxfordshire, was renowned so early as 1474. Papworth states that Jennings, the master mason at Windsor, purchased the stone from here for St. George's Chapel.—See *Notes on the Superintendents of English Buildings in the Middle Ages*, by Mr. W. Papworth. London, 1887.

³ 18, 19 Car. II. c. viii. c. xvi.

and the same liberty of working, etc., etc., as the free-men of the city of the same trades have and ought to enjoy, any usage or custom of the city to the contrary notwithstanding; and that such artificers which for the space of seven years shall have wrought in rebuilding the city, after the seven years shall have and enjoy the same liberty as free men of the city for their natural lives."

This Act, therefore, allowed country tradesmen to flock to London, greatly to the assistance of the various contractors. Such a man as Thomas Strong, who was in a better position, we see was enjoined by the Lord Mayor to take up the freedom of the Company of Masons.

In 1671 Thomas Strong was elected to come on to the livery, and pay his fine of £3.

1675. May. This year the ruins of the old cathedral of St. Paul's were cleared, the plan for rebuilding the sacred edifice having, after numerous changes and modifications, been accepted. Sir Christopher Wren, the architect, received the royal warrant, dated May 1st, 1676, to commence the works. Thomas Strong, having made the first contract with the commissioners¹ appointed to superintend the work, laid the foundation-stone with his own hand² the 11th June, 1677.

There is a tradition that Charles II. laid the foundation-stone with full masonic state; and the mallet used on that occasion is preserved by the Lodge of Antiquity, No. 2.

The following extract from the quarterage book is of interest:—

July 10, 1675. This day Thomas Strong was elected on to the Court of assistants of the Masons company and paid his fine £3.

¹ Strong was doubtless backed up by Wren, from his knowledge of his abilities and position, obtained when he executed some works at Oxford in 1665.

² See Gould; also the *Memoirs of the Strong Family*. The general belief is that Wren laid the foundation-stone in true masonic form assisted by a Lodge of Free Masons; but there is no evidence of this. Gould argues that Wren himself was not even a member of the Society of Free Masons. For particulars, see Gould, vol. iii. p. 55.

The history of the rebuilding of St. Paul's is well known ; how that under one architect, and under two contractors—who were also the master masons, inasmuch as they superintended all the working details—the great work was commenced and carried to a successful termination during a period of thirty-three years ; the last stone on the top of the lantern being laid by Edward Strong,¹ the brother of Thomas, on October 26th, 1708. (Thomas Strong having died in 1681, his brother, Edward Strong, succeeded to all his work and contracts).

That this work was of great importance to the masons of London goes without saying, since the cost of the whole fabric came to £74,954, equal to £1,222,437 of our present money.

Temple Bar
built.

About this time Sir Christopher Wren was superintending the rebuilding of Temple Bar, the masons of which were Joshua and Edward Marshall, members of the Court of the Masons Company.

1675. In the accounts this year we notice the following :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|-----|
| Paid and allowed Lewis Langley for his charge in laying in the River Water | | 1 | 7 0 |

(Previous to this the Company used a private well.)

1676. In 1676 another inventory of the goods of the Company was taken, and speculative masons will note with interest the items relating to the “accepted” members of the Company, as it will be evident to them that, at this period, the Company had a certain amount of connection with the “Society of Freemasons,” as it undoubtedly had in earlier days, when the free-stone masons considered themselves a distinct class, and much superior to the ordinary “rough” masons, or “uninitiated” members of the Company.

¹ See *Memoirs of the Strong Family*, London, 1815. This has also been attributed to Christopher Wren, son of the architect, who is said to have laid the last stone with masonic ceremony, assisted by Mr. Thomas Strong, his father, and the Lodge of Free Masons.

The Inven-
tory of
July 4, 1676.

AN INVENTORY OF THE GOODS AND CHATTELS OF THE
COMPANY OF MASONS.

- Imprimis.* One silver tankard the gift of Mr. Edward Marshall
1649.
- Item.* One silver Bowl the gift of Mr. Edward Gerrard 1647.
- Item.* Two Cups tipped with silver called Massards (Mazers).
- Item.* One Silver wine-cup gilt, being the gift of Mr. Joshua
Marshall.
- Item.* Two pewter flaggons.
- Item.* One table cloth and eleven napkins.
- Item.* One green carpet and one dozen green cushions.
- Item.* One little iron-bound trunk.
- Item.* One book of the Constitutions of the Accepted Masons.¹
- Item.* One book of the Ancient Constitutions and Orders.²
- Item.* One great Bible, one book of Common Prayer, and one book
Sebastian Serly.
- Item.* A fair large table of the Accepted Masons, one table of
orders, and the Kings Arms in a small frame.
- Item.* The Kings Arms in a painted cloth, and the Masons Arms
in a painted cloth.
- Item.* Eight Banners and eight Banner-staves.
- Item.* The moneydish and an ivory hammer.
- Item.* The Staff for the Beadle with silver head, with the Masons
Arms and three pewter standishes (ink-stands).

1677.
April 27th.
The Accepted
Masons men-
tioned in the
Court Books
of the Com-
pany.

The next entry refers to the Speculative division of
the Company; and although the item appears in the
minutes of the court, there is no record of the sum of
£6 being in hand, or, in fact, accounted for in any way
whatever, in the accounts for this year. No doubt there was a sepa-
rate cash-book kept for the Masons' Hall Lodge.

¹ Known as the "Old Charges" to modern Free Masons.

² The Constitutions or rules that were passed by the Court of Aldermen in 1481.

—See *ante*, p. 97.

It was ordered by the Court that the six pounds remaining in the Wardens hands which was left of the last accepted masons money be laid out for a new banner and that Mr. Warden Shorthose take care to get it made speedily.

It was also ordered at this Court that the committee
The Charter. appointed by the Company for obtaining the Charter, meet on Friday, the 4th of May, at 4 o'clock, at the Old Dog, within Ludgate, to consult about getting thereof.

On May the 10th the committee having met and made final preparations, the Company of Masons presented a petition to the Court of Aldermen, setting forth that they were addressing themselves to the king for a Charter under the Great Seal, and desiring the favour and countenance of that Court. They then ordered that it be referred to Mr. Recorder to peruse the draft prepared for that purpose, and consider whether any thing therein contained be prejudicial to the liberties or franchises of the city, and certify his opinion thereupon.

Sept. 27, 1677. Mr. Recorder delivered his opinion to the Court of Aldermen this day, touching the patent for incorporation desired by the Company of Masons. The Court ordered the perusal and further consideration thereof to a committee of Aldermen to certify their opinion thereon.

Oct. 23. The committee above mentioned made report to the Court of Aldermen that they had perused and considered the said draft and made such alterations therein as they thought convenient, and were of opinion that if the said Company could obtain the said Charter from His Majesty as it was then altered, it would be no prejudice to the Government of the city.

Whereupon the Court of Aldermen consented and agreed that the said Company should make their humble application to His Majesty for obtaining the said Charter.¹

¹ The above extracts are from the proceedings of the Court of Aldermen, 1677-8. See *Journal*, No. 48, folio 350.

The Charter¹
of Charles II.
1677.

The Company having thus prepared the way, duly petitioned for a Charter of Incorporation, and in consideration of certain fees obtained a patent. The following is an abstract of its contents :—

Charles the Second, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, and Ireland, King, etc., etc., etc., recites that “by an Act of the 5th Queen Elizabeth the art or occupation of a mason is reckoned as a distinct art or occupation, and that all persons exercising the said art were enabled and might be compelled to take apprentices to be instructed in the occupation.” And reciting that the master, wardens, and assistants of the Company of Masons had prayed that the King would by letters patent incorporate them a body politic to have perpetual succession, and to grant them such privileges as should seem requisite, and that the King willing and intending the support and continuance of the Company and the improvement of the art and mystery of masons, and to the end that they might be empowered to suppress and reform all abuses practised by persons who took upon them, without sufficient skill and knowledge, to work at a mason’s trade, and that the art and mystery of masons within the City of London might from henceforth be artificially and truly exercised. His Majesty ordained and granted that all and singular masons, freemen of the City of London, and all other subjects that should thereafter use the art in London or Westminster, or within seven miles compass of the same on either side, should be one body incorporated politic by the name of master, wardens, assistants, and commonalty of the art and mystery of masons of the City of London, and by the now-stating Charter His Majesty did constitute and declare them to be one body corporate, so that they and their successors should have perpetual succession, with power to hold lands notwithstanding the statute of mortmain,

¹ The original Charter of Charles II. was found in 1892 in the Record Office by Mr. Mackney for the author, the Company only having a copy.

and that the Company should have a common seal. The Charter further ordained that there should be one master, two wardens, and twenty-four¹ or more assistants of the Company, with power to make and alter from time to time laws, ordinances, and constitutions which to them or any eight of them should seem necessary, or expedient, or concerning the improvement or trade of the mystery of masons, and the order, rule, and good government of the Company, and for defraying the public and necessary charge of the Company and Corporation. The Charter provided that the election of master and wardens should take place annually on the 14th June; that the assistants should be chosen for life, unless removed for evil government, or misbehaviour, or other lawful or reasonable cause; and the Charter granted power to the master, wardens, assistants, and commonalty of the Company in lawful manner at all convenient times, at any place within seven miles of the City of London or Westminster, where any stones to be used in the art of trade of masonry should be bought or laid, to search and see whether the same be of proper length and measure, and whether the same be well and sufficiently wrought, and if any should be found and adjudged to be illwrought and not amended at the charges of the owner before the same should be put to sell, or that any of them which should be so faulty of according to law, and that the Company should have power to depute any fit persons to make and execute such views and searches. The Charter further ordained that no person should exercise the art or mystery of a mason unless he served seven years' apprenticeship to a freeman of the Company, or to some other person lawfully exercising the art. The Charter provided that nothing in it should be considered to extend to the prejudice, obstruction, or hindrance of the erecting, building, and finishing of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in the City of London, or any

¹ The exact words of the Charter are, "and also that there shall or may be four-and-twenty or more of the said Company according to the discretion of the master and wardens for the time being," etc., etc., etc.

other church in the same city, which was formerly burnt down by the late dreadful fire which happened in London. The Charter further provided that the master, wardens, and the assistants of the Company, and all other persons admitted into or employed by the Company, should, before execution of their offices, take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy.

^{1677.}
The Bye Laws. Having procured the Charter, the Company next proceeded to frame bye-laws for its internal government. These bye-laws, as recorded in the Town Clerk's office, in the book of orders of the Court of Aldermen, dated July 2nd, 1678, contain the rules, orders, and ordinances of the Company as drawn up by the Court of Assistants, and passed before the Lord High Chancellor and the Chief Justices of the King's Bench and Common Pleas. The bye-laws contain also rules as to fines, forfeits, etc., for members coming into the livery, court of assistants, or taking office as wardens, and on becoming master, also for being chosen as stewards, and other matters relating to the finances of the Company.

They also provide the mode of carrying out the search of stone, authorize the appointment of deputies for the purpose, direct that no person of the Company shall buy any stone to use, or sell again, until the same has been viewed; and that the Company shall have for their pains in viewing and searching 4*d.* per 100 of Purbeck stone, and 4*d.* per ton of other stone. It also provides that if His Majesty or his successors should have occasion for the masons to erect, build, repair, or finish any structure, fort, tower, castle, or fortification, it should be lawful for the master, wardens, and assistants of the Company to provide so many masons, members of the Company, as should be from time to time ordered by the Master Mason of England for the time being.

^{The Seal.}
^{1678.} In the following year we see the Company providing itself with a seal,¹ and a duplicate, for which they spent the

¹ This seal was ordered to bear the Arms of the Company as granted by the

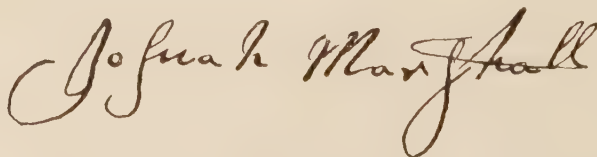
sum of £2 15s. There is also the following item in the year's accounts :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| 1678. Paid for a standish | 0 | 6 | 0 |

This is an old word for a case containing pens and ink, or it may have been an inkstand with a drawer.¹

Several of the stewards nominated this year for Lord Mayor's day appear and beg to be excused on account of poverty ; proof being shown, they are excused, and others chosen.

^{1679.}
The Marshall Trust. By the death of Mr. Joshua Marshall, a late member of the Court of Assistants, an agreement was entered into between the Company and the executors of Joshua Marshall, whereby, after reciting that the Company of Masons, whereof he was a member, were indebted to the testator in the sum of £200, the testator remitted and bequeathed unto the said Company the debt which they owed him, upon condition that they in consideration thereof should yearly for ever pay about the day of his death to poor widows of members of the Company the yearly sum of £10 amongst them. By the agreement the Company covenanted with the executors that they would yearly pay, distribute, and give away amongst poor widows of members of the Company the yearly sum of £10 in lawful money of England, in manner and form as by the will is directed.



The Search. In April of this year we find the Company exercising its powers, granted by the Charter, of making a general

King of Arms ; it is now lost. The seal at present in use is of much later date, and bears the plain chevron.

¹ "Pausing awhile over my *standish*, I resolved in verse to paynt forth my passion."—*Pierce Peniless*, 1592.

search in order to discover any persons working as masons within the seven miles radius who were not free of the Company. All the works then in progress were visited, and the names of all the workmen taken down ; many were found not to be free of any Company, and these were ordered to come on the yeomanry or freedom, or else become apprentices.

1679.

This year the right of searching for ill-wrought stone, and the fees arising therefrom, were farmed out to Mr. William Hammond, a member of the Company, for the sum of £27 for the year.

The accounts show the following :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid the Marshall for a soldier | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Paid trained Band charges | 2 | 10 | 0 |

The court books show that Mr. Tyrril, the cook, was discharged, and that the master and wardens should have power to nominate a cook from time to time as they shall think fit.

March, 16th.

The court ordered this day : " That the Company meet on Tuesday next, the 23rd inst., at Masons' Hall, in their gowns, at 9 of the clock in the fore noon, and from thence to dine with Sir Robert Clayton, Knight, Lord Mayor."

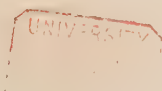
1680.

This year Mr. Knight, the renter warden, died, and by his will he bequeathed the sum of £70 to the Company, which sum the Company was indebted to him as is shown by his books.

July 1681.

Ordered by the court : " That tickets be sent to all persons that deal in stone about the city to appear at this court on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at 8 of the clock in the morning, and bring with them all moneys due to this Company for searches of all stone that they have bought and received since the 10th day of March last."

From the court books we learn the difficulty of always finding stewards of sufficient substance to act ; as by the following entry :—



Stewards.
Oct. 19th.

"It is this day agreed that the Company be all summoned to appear and attend the Lord Mayor's day, and by reason that the Company cannot find stewards to feast them that day, they do now agree to have no dinner, but only a breakfast before they go to their stand."

Elias Ashmole
and the
Free Masons.

As frequent mention has been made of the old "Society of Free and Accepted Masons," members of which society were also members of this Company, and whose names, we have seen, were contained in a "fair enclosed frame with a lock and key,"¹ I think the following particulars of the speculative character of the Company will set at rest any doubts that may exist as to this dual condition.

As some of these are taken from the diary of Elias Ashmole, the antiquary, a few words concerning his life will not be out of place.

Elias Ashmole was born at Lichfield on May 23rd, 1617. He went at the age of sixteen to reside with his uncle, James Paget, Baron of the Exchequer, in London, where he eventually became a solicitor. At the outbreak of the Civil War, in consequence of the unsettled state of the country, and also on account of the death of his first wife, Ashmole retired to Oxford and applied himself vigorously to the study of the sciences; natural philosophy and astrology in particular. In 1646 he took up arms for the King, and was made a captain in Lord Ashley's regiment at Worcester. After the surrender of that city, he withdrew to Cheshire, the home of his deceased wife, and on October the 16th of that year he was initiated into the society of Free Masons at a lodge held at Warrington. After his initiation Ashmole left Cheshire for London, and immediately became intimate with Sir Jonas Moor, William Lilly, and John Booker, three of the greatest astrologers and necromancers of the age. By Sir John Booker he was instructed in

¹ See Inventory of 1665.

those already declining sciences. In 1661 he was admitted a Fellow of the Royal Society, and was twice offered, and refused, the post of Garter-King of Arms. Among his numerous studies is said to have been that of Rosicrucianism, a peculiar semi-religious and mystic fraternity which has often, but never successfully, been attempted to be explained. Indeed Ashmole was such an ardent student of hermetic philosophy, that many writers think that modern Freemasonry owes to his mystic researches much of its present ritual; at least in what are known as the higher degrees.

1682.
Ashmole and
the Masons
Company. In 1682 he was present at a lodge held at Masons' Hall, London, which he describes in his diary. In 1683 he founded the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, and at his death, in 1692, he bequeathed his MSS. to that foundation.

Anthony-a-Wood says of him: "He was the greatest virtuoso and curioso that ever was known or read of in England before his time." Ashmole was a great writer, and he is known principally by his magnificent *History of the Most Noble Order of the Garter*, published in 1672; besides many works relating to philosophy, astrology, and others dealing with mystical subjects. Had he been spared, we are told that the fraternity of Freemasons would have had their history written by his pen, as he had made a considerable collection of notes and MSS. relating to that ancient craft. Unfortunately these MSS. are said to have been destroyed at a time when the craft appears to have been nervous as to their contents.

But as it is the diary of Ashmole which throws light on the relations between the Masons Company and the old society, I here give these particulars:—

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF ELIAS ASHMOLE.

Ashmole's
Diary.¹
1646. Oct. 16th. 4.30 p.m. I was made a Free Mason at Warrington in Lancashire with Colonel Henry Mainwaring of Karincham in Cheshire. The names of those that were then of the lodge (were) Mr. Rich

¹ Published in 1717 and 1774. See Gould's *Hist. of Freemasonry* for full particulars of Ashmole and Freemasonry.

Penket Warden, Mr. James Collier, Mr. Rich Sankey, Henry Littler, John Ellam, Rich Ellam, and Hugh Brewer.¹

Oct. 25th. I left Cheshire and came to London. Mr. Jonas Moore brought and acquainted me with Mr. William Lilly.

Dec. 23rd. This day at noon I first became acquainted with Mr. John Booker.

It will be seen from this how very soon Ashmole
 1682.
 The Lodge
 at Masons'
 Hall. courted the acquaintance of these three astrologers after his
 initiation into Freemasonry. The diary goes on from year
 to year, but no mention is made of his attending any lodge of Free-
 masons until the year 1682, when we find the following remarkable
 entry :—

March 10th. About 5 p.m. I received a summons to appear at a Lodge to be held next day at Masons Hall, London.

March 11th. Accordingly I went and about noon were admitted into the Fellowship of Free Masons :

Sir William Wilson Knight, Capt. Rich Borthwick, Mr. Will Woodman,* Mr. Wm Grey,* Mr. Samuel Taylor,* and Mr. William Wise.*

I was senior Fellow among them (it being 35 years since I was admitted). There were present besides myself the Fellows after named :

Mr. Thos Wise,* Master of the Masons company this present year, Mr. Thomas Shorthose,* Mr. Thomas Shadbolt,* — Wainsford * Esq., Mr. Rich Young,* Mr. John Shorthose,* Mr. William Hammon,* Mr. John Thompson,* and Mr. William Stanton.*

We all dined at the Halfe Moone Tavern² in Cheapside, at a Noble dinner prepared at the charge of the New-accepted Masons.

Ashmole

¹ In 1881 (*Mas. Mag.*) Rylands shows that nearly all those present were men of position, and not one of them operative masons, therefore the speculative character of the lodge is evident.

* In 1682 Thomas Wise was master of the Company; John Shorthose and William Stanton, wardens; also those names marked with an asterisk were members of the Masons' Company. The others were doubtless members of the Masons' Hall Lodge of Freemasons, where the old speculative part of masonry had been kept secretly alive during the troubled state of the country since the Reformation.

² In 1723, at the Half-Moon Tavern, were held the fortnightly meetings of Lodge No. 21.

W^m Woodman

W^m Grogg

H^m Wise

The Shorthof

Tho. Shatboul

Nikolas young

John Shorthof

will: Hamond

John Thomson

H^m: Stanton

Tho: Wife

FACSIMILE AUTOGRAPHS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MASONS COMPANY,
MENTIONED BY ASHMOLE AS BEING PRESENT AT THE LODGE OF SPECULATIVE
MASONS AT MASONS' HALL, BASINGHALL STREET, LONDON, 1682.

[Taken from the Accounts and Court Minutes of the Worshipful Company of Masons, London.]

From these extracts it will be easily understood why "An old Book containing the Constitutions of the accepted Masons" was in the possession of the Company at the time of the inventory of 1665, and also why the names of the accepted masons were enclosed in a "faire frame with a lock and key," and also, perhaps, why the Company had "One great Bible,"¹ and "one Ivory Hammer."

Before leaving Ashmole and the Masonic meeting at the hall, it is well to note that no mention of any such meeting is made in the books of the Company, showing clearly that the Company, as a gild for the protection of the trade, was separate from the other members of the Company when they met for the protection of the ancient landmarks of the Society of Free and Accepted Masons. This dual condition certainly existed then, and had done so no doubt from the time when every member of the Company who could set out geometrical details, was also an initiated member of the Society of Free Masons, then possibly embracing the whole of Europe.

It is unfortunate also that so many of the old possessions of the Company are now missing, particularly those relating to the "accepted" members, as there is little doubt but that the Company represented at this time one of the oldest gilds of masons, which from

¹ The special version of the Holy Scriptures, known as the "Great Bible," first appeared in April, 1539, with six further editions in April, 1540; July, 1540; November, 1540; May, 1541; November, 1541; and December, 1541, respectively. Cromwell was the paymaster, and Coverdale the editor and chief translator, but he was assisted by "dyuerse excellent learned men," whose names have not transpired, though it is presumed they were Bishops of the Church of England. It should not be confounded with "Coverdale's Bible," which preceded it; and it is sometimes inappropriately known as "Cranmer's Bible," a misnomer due to the fact that the second edition was issued with a prologue by him, though he had absolutely nothing to do with either the translation, revision, printing, or publication of the first edition, directly or indirectly. The title page of the first edition reads:

"The Byble in | Englyshe, that is to saye the con | tent of all the holy scripture, bothe | of ye olde and newe testament, truly | translated after the veryte of the | Hebrue and Greke textes, by ye dy | lygent studye of dyuerse excellent | learned men, expert in the forsayde | tonges. | Prynted by Rycharde Grafton & Edward Whitchurch. | Cum priuilegio ad imprimem | dum solum. | 1539." | (*Note by G. W. Speth*).

time to time continued to hold a lodge for the initiation of new members, and which kept among its muniments the old Constitutions of the fraternity.

Notwithstanding the loss of this old book of the Constitutions, which is twice mentioned in the inventories of 1665 and 1670, I have been able to obtain a copy of what was most likely a transcript made for the Company in 1686, at a time when the property of the Company was in jeopardy of confiscation by James II. This transcript of the old book of the Constitutions, or from some similar copy, is in the possession of the Grand Lodge of England, Freemasons Hall, London. The MS. in question is written on two parchment skins, running together to nearly five feet in length, the width exceeding thirteen inches; there is a fine illumination at the head of the roll, consisting of the Royal Arms, having in portions on either side the inscription "J 2nd R 1686," and below are the arms of the City of London, and those of the Masons Company, the latter similar to the coat given by Stow in 1633—*i.e.* sable, on a plain chevron, between three towers, argent, a pair of compasses extended of the first.

Curiously enough there is another copy differing slightly from the first, dated the *same year*, also bearing the arms of the City and of the Masons Company. This is in possession of the Lodge of Antiquity.¹

By the courtesy of Mr. W. J. Hughan (Torquay), the author of many valuable works on Freemasonry, I have obtained a transcript of the former MS., which undoubtedly was connected with the accepted members of the Masons Company, who, in my belief, were responsible for its custody, at the time when the Company was threatened with destruction by James II., in 1686-7. The history of the former

¹ It is very curious that two MS. transcriptions, made in the same year, should both have similar heading, containing the City Arms and those of the Masons Company, and yet differ to such an extent in the text that they *could* not have been made from the same original.

MS. subsequent to 1686 is unknown; the other has belonged to the Lodge of Antiquity from time immemorial,¹ and is a parchment scroll of some nine feet in length. It bears the name of the transcriber, one Robert Padgett, who designates himself as Clerk to the "Worshipful Society of Free Masons of the city of London." The Padgett family belonged to the Masons Company, but *Robert* Padgett's name I cannot find. Doubtless he was not an operative mason, but from his family connections would most likely have access to their deeds (supposing this MS. to be a copy of the old book of Constitutions). The important fact that the Masons Company dropped the prefix of free from their title in 1655,² shows clearly that at about that date a number of speculative masons formed themselves into a London Society, and were known as the *Society* of Freemasons, in contradistinction to the *Company* of Masons.

From this London Society of Freemasons, emanated no doubt several lodges of speculative masons, who early in the next century (1717) met together and formed the nucleus of modern Freemasonry. The text of these curious "Old Constitutions"³ of the mason's craft dates back to the fifteenth century, and traditionally, to a much earlier period. Many versions have been preserved of various dates, a complete list of which will be found on page 219, etc. The history of the G.L. of England MS. (a transcription of which is given in

¹ As I have before stated, it is my opinion that, did the Lodge of Antiquity possess records earlier than the year 1700, their connexion with the Masons Company would probably be easily traced.

² Although the Company dropped the title of Freemason in 1655, yet we find the members so described as late as 1668, as by the following Deed between Matthew Hunter Clerke, Rector of Newbold Pacie in the county of Warwick, and Edward Marshall, citizen and Freemason of London, relates to land, etc., in the precincts of the late dissolved Priory called White Fryors in the Suburbs of the city of London, with signatures of Matthew and Sarah Hunter, dated 1668.

³ The following MSS. in the British Museum contain the ancient constitutions of the Masons Gild. *MS. Bib. Reg.* 17A1, 14th century; *Addl. MSS.* 23,198, date 15th century; *Sloane MS.* 3,848, date 1646; *Sloane MS.* 3,322, date 1659; *Harleian MS.* 1,942, 17th century; and *Harleian MS.* 2,054, also 17th century.



FRAGMENT OF MONUMENT IN WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL CONTAINING THE MASONS' ARMS.
17TH CENT.

[*Transactions of Lodge Quatuor Coronati*, vol. i. p. 112.]

these pages) is obscure. The late Colonel Clerke obtained it some thirty years ago from a village in South Wales, where it was found in an old chest among other papers. In 1879 it was forwarded to Mr. W. J. Hughan, whose transcript I now give:—

COLONEL CLERKE'S MS. (Illuminated).

"J2d R. 1686."

THE CITY ARMS.

THE ROYAL ARMS.

THE MASONS ARMS.

The **Night** of the Father of Heaven with ye Wisdome of the glorious Sonne through the Grace and ye Goodnesse of ye Holy Ghost that be three persons in one Godhead be with us at our beginning and give us Grace So to govern Us here in our life that wee may come to his eternall blisse that never shall have ending. AMEN.

Good Brethren and Fellowes our purpose is to tell you how this worthy Science of Masonrye was begun, and in what manner and afterwards how it was founded by worthy Kings and Princes, and by many other honourable and worshipfull men. And also to those that be here we will declare the charges that belongeth to every true Mason to keep. For in good faith and if you take good heed it is well worthy to be kept for a worthy Craft and curious Science.

For there be Seaven liberall Sciences of the which Seaven it is one. And the names of the Seven Sciences be these **first** is Grammar and that teacheth a man to speak truly and write truly, **The** Second is Rhetorick and that teacheth a man to speak fair in subtile terms.

The third is Dialectick and that teacheth a man for to discern for know Truth from falsehood. **The** fourth is Arithmetick and that teacheth a man for to reckon and count all manner of Numbers.

The Fift is called Geometrie, and that teacheth a man mete and measure and all other Things. **The** Sixt is called Musick, and that teacheth a man the perfect Method of Song and voyce of Tongue with Instruments as Organ Harp and Trumpett. **The** Seventh is called Astronomie and that teacheth a man the course of the Sun Moone and Starres. These be the Seven Liberall Sciences the which Science take their foundacon of Geometrie. For Geometrie teach a man mete and measure and weight of all manner of Things on Earth. For there is no Man that worketh any Science or Craft but he worketh by some Mete some Measure or Weight. And all this is Geometrie, and Merchants and all Craftsmen and all other of the Six Sciences, especially the Ploughman and Tillers of the Earth for all manner of Grain, Seeds, Vines, Plumb trees, or Planters of Fruit. For neither Grammar Arithmetick nor

Astronomie nor none of the other Sciences can a man find Mete or Measure in, without Geometrie, Wherefore me thinketh that the Science of Geometrie is most worthy from whom the other proceed.

How that this worthy Science was first begun I shall tell you. Before Noah's Flood there was a man that was called Lamech, it is written in the Bible in the 4th Chap. of Genesis, and this Lamech had two Wives, and the one wife's name was Ada and the other Sella. By the first he had two Sonnes, and the one was called Jaball and the other Juball. And by the other wife Zillah he gotte and daughter, and these foure Children founded the beginning of all the Sciences in the World. And the Elder Son Jaball founded the Science of Geometrie and he departed flocks of Sheep and Land in the Field and first wrought Houses of Stone and Timber as it is noted in the Chapter abovesaid. And his Brother Juball found the Science of Musick, as Song Harp and Organ, and the Third Brother Tubal-Kaine found Smiths Craft of Gold Silver Copper Iron and Steel; and the Daughter found the Craft or Knowledge of weaving. And these Children knew well that God would take Vengeance for sinne either by Fire or Water, wherefore they writ their Sciences that they had found in two Pillars of Stone, that they might be found out after Noah's Flood. And the One Pillar of Stone was of Marble, for that it would not be burnt with fire, and the Stone whereof the other Pillar was made was called Laterns and that would not drowne in any water.

Our intent is to tell you truly how and in what manner these Stones were found that those Sciences were written in The Great Hermermes that was the Son of Cub was the Son of Shem who was the Son of Noye. The same Hermermes was afterwards called Hermes the father of the wise men. He found out the two Pillars of Stone and found the Science written there and he taught it to other men. And at the makeing of the Tower of Babylon, there was Masonrye first made much of. And the King of Babylon who was called Nembroth was a Mason himselfe and loved well the Science as it is said with Master of Stories, and when the City of Ninivee and the other great Cities of the East should be made Nembroth the King of Babylon sent thither 60 Masons at the request of the King of Ninivee his Cosen, and when hee sent them, hee gave them a charge in this manner **T**hat they should be true each of them to other and that they should live truly together and that they should serve their Lord truly for their pay, so that the Mar. may have Work and all that belong to him, and other more Charges hee gave them **A**nd this was the first time that ever Mason had any Charge of his Science or Craft. Moreover when Abraham and Sara his wife went into Egypt, and there taught the Seven Sciences unto the Egyptians and he had a worthy Scholler named Ewclid and he learned right well and was a Master of all the

7 Liberall Sciences and his dayes it befell that the Lords and States of the Realm had so many Sonnes, that they had gotten, some by their Wives and some by other Ladyes of the Realm, for that land is a hott land and plenteous of Generation, and they had not competent maintenance wherewith to find their Children : wherefore they had much care. And then the King of the Land had made a great Counsell and a Parliament to understand how they might find their children honestly like Gentlemen, and they could find no manner of good way. And they did cry through all the Realm, if there were any men that could informè them, that hee should come to them and hee should be rewarded for his travail, that hee should hold himselfe well pleased. After this cry was made, then came the worthy Clark Ewclid and said to the King and all his great Lords, If yee will take mee for to Governe your children and to teach them one of the Seven Sciences wherewith they may live honestly as Gentlemen should under a Condicton that you will grant mee and them a Commission, that I may have power to rule them after the manner that the Science ought to be ruled, in all things belonging thereto which the King and his Counsell presently granted him and sealed him a Commission, And then this worthy Doctor tooke to him these Lordes Sonnes, and taught them the practice of Geometry in practice for to work in stones all manner of worthy worke that belongeth to building of Churches, Temples, Castles, Towers and Manors, and all other manner of building and hee gave them a charge after this manner.

The First was that they should be true to the King, and the Lord they should serve, and that they should love well together, and be true each one to other, and that they should call each other Fellow or else Brother, and not his Servant nor his Knave or other fowle name, and that they should truly deserve their pay of the Lord or Mastr. that they Serve, and that they should ordaine the wisest among them to be Master of the worke and neither for love nor great Lineage, neither for riches nor for favour to Sett another that hath little cunning for to bee Mastr. of the Lords work whereby the Lord should be evill served and they ashamed. And also that they shall call the Governor of the worke Master, the time that they worke with him, and other many more charges that were too long to tell. And to all these charges hee made them to Swear a great Oath that men used in that time and Ordained for them reasonably pay that they might live honestly by, And also that they should come and Assemble together every year once, how they might worke best to serve the Lord for his proffitt and to their owne worship and to correct within themselves him that had trespassed against ye Craft, And thus with the Craft grounded there And that worthy Mar. Ewclid gave it by the name of Geometrie, and now is called through all this land Masonrye.

Sithence long after when the children of Israel were come into the Land of Behest that is now called amongst us the Country of Jerusalem, King David begun the Temple that is called *Templum Domini* and is named of us the Temple of Jerusalem and the Same King David loved well Masons and cherished them much, and gave them good pay, and he gave them the charges and manners as he had learned before given by Ewclid and other charges more that ye shall hear afterwards and after the Decease of King David SOLOMON that was King David's Sonne finished the Temple that his Father had begunne. And hee sent for Masons into other Countreys and divers lands and gathered them together, so that he had Fourscore thousand of Workers of Stones, and were all named Masons. And hee chose out of them three thousand that were ordained to bee Mastrs. and Governors of his workes. And furthermore there was a King of another Region that men called HIRAM and hee loved well King Solomon and hee gave him Timber to his worke, And hee had a Sonne that was called AYNON and hee was a Master of Geometrie and was chiefe Mastr. of all his Masons, and Mastr. of all his graveing and Carveing and of all manner of Masonrye that belonged to the Temple and this is witnessed in the Bible in librc Regum 5^o Cap. And the same Solomon confirmed both charges and the manners that his Father had given to Masons, And thus was that worthy Craft of Masonry confirmed in that Counntry and in many other Kingdomes. **Curious** Craftesmen walked about full wide into divers Countreys some because of learning more craft and cuning and some to teach that had but little cuning, and so it befell that there was curious mason named NAYMUS GRÆCUS that had been at the making of Solomon's Temple and hee came into France and there he taught the Science of Masonrye to men of France. And there was one of Regall lyne of France called Charles Martill and hee was a man that loved well that Science and went to this NAYMUS GRÆCUS and learned of him the Science and tooke upon him the charge and manners, and afterwards by the Grace of God hee was elected to be King of France and when hee was in his Throne hee tooke Masons and did help to make men Masons that were none and Sett them to worke and gave them both the charge and the manners and good pay as he had learned of other Masons and confirmed them a Charter from yeare to yeare to hold their Assembly where they would and cherished and encouraged them right much, and thus came the Science to France.

England in all this Season stood voyd as for any charge of Masonrye until St. Albones time and in his dayes the King of England that was then Pagan did wall the Towne about that is called St. Alban's and St. Albon was a worthy Knight and Steward of the King's Household, and had Governance

of the Realm, and also the makeing of the Towne Walls and loved Masons well and cherished and encouraged them right much and he made their pay right good standing as the Realme did he gave them 2s. 6d. a week and 3d to their novices, and before that time through all this Land a Mason tooke but a 1d, a day and his meate until St. Albion amended it and obtained a Charter for them from the King and his Counsell for to hold a generall Counsell and gave it the name of Assembly and thereat he was himselfe and helped to make Masons and gave them charges as yee shall heare afterward.

Right Soone after the death of St. Albion there came divers warres into the Realme of England out of divers Countryes so that the good Rule of Masonrye was destroyed until ye time of King ATHELSTON that was a worthy King of England and brought this Land into great rest and peace and builded many great workes of Abbies Towers and divers many other buildings And hee loved well Masons and he had a Sonne called EDWIN, and he loved Masons much more than his Father did and hee was a great Practicer in Geometrie, and hee went much to talke and commune with Masons to learne of them knowledge, and afterwards for love that hee had to Masons and to the Craft he was made Mason, and he obtained of the King his Father a Charter and a Commission to hold every year once an Assembly wheresoever they would within the Realme of England, and to correct within themselves faults and trespasses that were done within the Craft, and he himselfe held an Assembly at York, and there he made Masons and gave them Charges and taught them the manners and commanded that Rule to be kept ever after, and gave them the Charter and Commission to keep and make Ordinance, that it should be renewed from King to King.

And when the Assembly was gathered together hee proclaimed that all old Masons and young that had any writing or understanding of the charges and the manners or Customes that were made before in this land or in any other that they should shew them forth. And when it was proved they were found some in French, some in Greek, and some in English, and some in other Languages and the intent of them all was found as one, and hee made a Book thereof and how the Craft was founded and hee himselfe commanded that it should be seen read and told when that any Mason should be made and for to give him his charge and from that day to this time manners or Customes of Masons have been kept in that forme as well as men might govern it. And furthermore at divers Assemblies hath been put and Ordained certain charges by the best Advice of Master and Fellows.

Tunc unus ex Senioribus tenet librum, ut illi vel ponat vel ponat manus super librum et tunc præcepta deberunt legi.

Every man that is a Mason take good heed unto these charges, if any

mand find himselfe guilty of any of these charges that hee amend himselfe towards God, and in Principall yee that are to be charged take good heed that yee may keep these charges right well, for it is a great perill for a man to forswear himselfe upon a Booke.

- 1st. **The First** charge is that hee or thou shalt be true to God and holy Church, and that hee use no Error or heresy by your understanding or discreet or wise mens teaching, and also that hee shall be a true liege man to the King of England without Treason or any falsehood, and that they Know no Treason nor Treatory but to award it privily if it might bee or else warne the King or his Counsell.
- 2d. **And** also that you shall be true each one to other, that is to say every Mason of the Crafte of Masonrye that have been Masters allowed you shall doe to them as you would they should doe to you.
- 3d. **And** also that you keep truly all the Counsell of Lodge and of Chamber, and of all other Counsell that ought to be kept by way of Masonrye.
- 4th. **And** also that no Mason shall be no thief nor theefly given, for as forth as hee may wette or Know.
- 5th. **And** Also that yee shall be true to the Lord and to this Mastr. yee serve and truly see his profit and his advantage.
- 6th. **And** also you shall Call Masons your Brethren or else your Fellowes and no other foule names.
- 7th. **And** also that ye shall not take your Fellow's wife in Villaine, nor desire ungodly his daughter, nor his Servant, nor put him to no disworship.
- 8th. **And** also that you pay truly for your Meat and Drink where you go to board.
- 9th. **And** also that you shall no Villaine, in that place where you go to board whereby the Craft might be slandered.

These be the Charges in Generall that belongeth to every true Mason to keepe.

Rebearse I will now other charges Singular for Masters and Fellowes.

- 1st. **That** no Master shall take in hand any Lords worke nor no other man's worke except hee know himselfe able and sufficient of cuning to performe and end the Lordes worke so that the Craft have no Slander nor no disworship but that the Lord may be well served and truly with his owne good, and the Mastr to live honestly and to pay his Fellowes truly their pay as the manner is.

- 2d. **And** also that no Mastr nor Fellow shall supplant another of their worke (that is to say) If hee take a worke or else stand Mastr of the Lords work, yee shall not put him out except hee be unable of cuning for ending of the worke.
- 3d. **And** also that no Mastr nor no Fellow take no Apprentice within the terme of Seaven Yeares, and that the Apprentice bee able of birth that is to say free borne and of Limbs whole as a man ought to bee.
- 4th. **And** also that no Master nor no Fellow take none nor allow any to be made Mason without the Assent and Counsell of his Fellowes, and that hath Served Six or Seven Yeares at ye least.
- 5th. **And** hee that shall be made Mason bee able in all manner of degrees that is to say free borne and to come of good kindred and true and no bond man and that he haue good Limbes as a man ought to have.
- 6th. **And** also that no Mason shall take an Apprentice except hee haue sufficient occupation for two Fellowes or else three at the least.
- 7th. **And** also that no Master nor no Fellow put any Lords work to taske that was wont to go to Journey, and also that every Master shall giue pay unto his Fellows but as hee may deserve, so that yee be not deceived by false workmen.
- 8th. **And** also that none slander another behind his back to make him loose his good name or else his worldly Goods.
- 9th. **And** also that no Fellow within the Lodge or without mis-answer another ungodly nor reproveably without a reasonable cause.
- 10th. **And** also that every Mason shall Reverence his Elder and put him to worship. And also that no Mason shall be a Comon player at hazard Dice or other unlawfull playes whereby the Craft may be slandered.
- 11th. **And** also that no Mason shall use leachery or be Adulterous whereby the Craft might be slandered.
- 12th. **And** also that no Fellow go into the Towne by night, where as a lodge is of Fellowes except hee haue a Fellow with him that hee may bear him witnesse that he was in honest place.
- 13th. **And** also that every Master and Fellow shall come to the Assembly and if it be within Fifty mile about him if hee have warning and if hee have trespassed against the Craft that hee abide the Award of Master and Fellows.
- 14th. **And** also that every Master and Fellow, that haue trespassed against the Craft shall stand there. At the Award of the Master and Fellowes to make them Accorded and Agreed if they may, and if hee may not agree then to go to the common Law.

- 15th. **And** also that no Master nor Fellow make no Mould nor Square nor Rule to no Layer nor Sett no Layer within the Lodge to hew mould Stones.
- 16th. **And** also that every Mason receive and cherish strange Fellows when they come over the Countreyes and to sett them to worke if they will as the manner is that is to say if he hew mould Stones in his place yee shall refresh him with Money unto the next Lodge.
- 17th. **And** also that every Mason shall truly serve the Lord for his pay and every master truly make an end of his work be it taske or Journey if yee have your Covenants and all that ye ought for to have.
These Charges that wee haue now rehearsed to you and all other that belongeth to Masons you shall keep. So help you God, and by this Booke unto your power.

[*Verbatim et literatim* transcript from the original MS. of A.D. 1686, made by W. J. Hughan in 1879.]

On the decease of Colonel Clarke, the MS. was acquired by the Grand Lodge of England.

It is noteworthy that no other craft gild in Great Britain or elsewhere has ever laid claim to such a curious traditional history as that of the Fellowship of Masons.

According to Gould, "within living memory, barely ten copies of versions of these quaint MS. Constitutions were known," but of late years, and chiefly through the zeal of Hughan and Woodford, a large number have been brought to light, and we now possess no less than sixty-three¹ manuscripts containing the mason's legend—the earliest dating from the latter end of the 14th, and the latest from the present century.

It may be asked why so many manuscripts relating this gild legend were necessary, seeing that only a few corporate towns boasted of a Company of Masons.

The answer is not difficult, but rather one of easy explanation. As previously mentioned, in the days of ecclesiastical masonry, it was necessary for the masons to protect their craft from unskilled

¹ Copies are now constantly coming to light, and every year sees some further discovery.

and lawless workmen. Hence arose the custom of establishing lodges or sodalities at all the principal works then in progress.

On the reception of a youth as an apprentice to one of the members, it is more than probable that the lodge would impart to him the ancient traditions of the craft.

This could only be done by one well versed in the legend, or by reading over a manuscript containing the story. Every lodge or Company of Masons would therefore require a copy of these constitutions or charges.¹

That this custom did prevail, and in some instances survived until a recent date, may be gathered from the orders or bye-laws of the Company of Freemasons (operative) of Alnwick, in Northumberland, dated 1701.

These orders have been already given on a previous page² in connection with the custom of presenting or entering apprentices. When this practice fell into disuse with the London Company we cannot say. No doubt about the year 1666-7, when the new Charter placed the Company on a different basis from the old gild, this custom, if not already abolished, was probably relegated to the esoteric division that continued holding lodges down to the time of Ashmole's visit.

The MS.
Constitutions
of Masonry.

The following list of the old MS. constitutions that have come to light up to the time of writing these pages is taken from one published in the *Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Freemasons*, vol. vi., part iii., pp. 198, 199, drawn up to date by Mr. W. J. Hugan. These MSS. have been classed into eight families by Dr. Begemann, of Rostock, Germany, and are generally so arranged. In the present instance I have re-arranged them in a fairly correct chronological sequence, keeping their class

¹ It may be noted that in the printed *Constitutions of the Freemasons*, dated 1723, it is stated that they are "to be read at the admission of a New Brother, when the Master or Warden shall begin or order some other Brother to read as follows." These instructions are repeated in the edition of 1738, a quarto book containing many pages.

² *Ante*, page 142.

designation, as arranged by Begemann and Hugan, quite separate. Where the date does not occur in the MS., it is often very difficult to assign its proper place in the order of precedence, and it is only by the text, paper, and other marks of antiquity that its probable date can be fixed. In such cases I have placed an asterisk against those of the first half of the century, and a dagger to denote those of the latter half.

As nearly all these MS. constitutions have been printed, I refer the reader to Hugan's list, where particulars of each manuscript will be found fully detailed, and references given.¹

A List of the existing MSS. that contain the Masons' Constitutions or Legendary History.

| NO. | TITLE. | DATE. | REPOSITORY. | DESCRIPTION OF MS. | CLASS. |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------------|--|---|----------------|
| 1 | <i>Halliwell or Regius.</i> | Late 14th cent. | British Museum, Bib. Reg. 17—A.I. | A small quarto on vellum, of sixty-four pages, containing 794 lines of MS. | A |
| 2 | <i>Cooke</i> | Early 15th cent. | British Museum, Add. MSS. 23, 198. | On vellum, in the original oak binding. Size, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches. | B ₁ |
| 3 | <i>Grand Lodge, No. 1.</i> | 1583 | Grand Lodge of England. | A parchment roll of four strips pasted together, 9 feet in length and 5 inches in breadth. Dated December 25th, 1583. | D ₁ |
| 4 | <i>Lansdowne, No. 98, Art. 48.</i> | Early 17th cent. | British Museum | Written one side of four sheets of stout paper, covering seven folios. | D ₂ |
| 5 | <i>York, No. 1.</i> | *17th cent. | York Lodge, No. 236. | Four sheets of parchment, 7 feet in length by 7 inches in breadth, formerly a roll. | D ₃ |
| 6 | <i>Phillips, No. 1.</i> | *17th cent. | The Rev. J. E. A. Fenwick, Cheltenham. | A parchment book stitched in parchment, some words rubricated | D ₄ |
| 7 | <i>Phillips, No. 2.</i> | *17th cent. | The Rev. J. E. A. Fenwick, Cheltenham. | A parchment book, copy of No. 6, with certain words rubricated | D ₅ |

¹ See also *The Old Charges of British Freemasons*, by W. J. Hugan, now in the press.

| No. | TITLE. | DATE. | REPOSITORY. | DESCRIPTION OF MS. | CLASS. |
|-----|---|----------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 8 | <i>Wood</i> | 1610 | Worcester Mas. Library. | In book form, on parchment, some letters illuminated. It has a curious dated title. | D ₆ |
| 9 | <i>Sloane MS.</i> , No. 3848. | 1646 | British Museum | On thirteen pages of quarto paper, 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; written by Edward Sankey, and dated 16th October, 1646. | E ₁ |
| 10 | <i>Sloane MS.</i> , No. 3323. | 1659 | British Museum | Written on six pages of paper, 6 inches by 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches; signed by Thomas Martin, and dated 1659. | E ₂ |
| 11 | <i>Harleian MS.</i> , No. 2054. [<i>Randle Holme's MS.</i>] | †17th cent. | British Museum | A folio of six and a half pages, written on four leaves of paper about 12 inches by 8 inches. | E ₃ |
| 12 | <i>Grand Lodge</i> , No. 2. | †17th cent. | Grand Lodge of England. | A parchment roll of four strips, 9 feet long and nearly 7 inches wide. | F ₂ |
| 13 | <i>Harleian MS.</i> , No. 1942. | †17th cent. | British Museum | Written both sides of twenty pages of paper, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches by 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. | F ₃ |
| 14 | <i>Lechmere</i> . . | †17th cent. | Worcester Mas. Library. | A parchment roll | F ₄ |
| 15 | <i>Buchanan</i> . . | †17th cent. | Grand Lodge of England. | A parchment roll of strips sewn together, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. | D ₇ |
| 16 | <i>Kilwinning</i> . . | †17th cent. | Mother Kilwinning Lodge, No. o. | On small quarto paper, in the form of a Lodge record . . . | D ₈ |
| 17 | <i>Ancient Sterling</i> | †17th cent. | Ancient Sterling Lodge, No. 30. | A parchment mounted on cardboard, and framed 2 feet wide and 20 inches in length. | D ₉ |
| 18 | <i>Atcheson Haven</i> | 1666 | Grand Lodge of Scotland. | Engrossed in the minute book of an operative Scotch Lodge, and dated 29th May, 1666. | D ₁₀ |
| 19 | <i>Aberdeen</i> . . | 1670 | Aberdeen Lodge, No. 1 <i>ter.</i> | On paper, a Lodge record . . . | D ₁₁ |
| 20 | <i>Melrose</i> , No. 2. | 1674 | Melrose Lodge, No. 1 <i>bis.</i> | A paper roll 5 feet in length and 1 in width. Copied from an earlier MS. by A. M., December, 1674. | D ₁₂ |
| 21 | <i>Stanley</i> . . . | 1677 | West Yorks. Mas. Library. | Parchment roll 10 feet in length and 7 inches wide | D ₁₃ |

| NO. | TITLE. | DATE. | REPOSITORY. | DESCRIPTION OF MS. | CLASS. |
|-----|---|----------------|--|---|-----------------|
| 22 | <i>Carson</i> . . . | 1677 | E. T. Carson, Esq., Cincinnati, U.S.A. | A parchment roll 7 feet long and 7½ inches wide. | D ₁₄ |
| 23 | <i>William Watson</i> | 1687 | West Yorks. Mas. Lib. | A parchment roll 12 feet long by 7½ inches wide, made up of six slips stitched together. It bears the name of Edward Thompson, 1687. This MS. has a rough drawing of the Masons Company's Arms: a plain chevron between 3 towers. | C ₂ |
| 24 | <i>Thomas W. Tew</i> | †17th cent. | West Yorks. Mas. Lib. | A parchment roll about 6½ feet long by 6 inches in width . . | E ₆ |
| 25 | <i>Inigo Jones</i> . . | †17th cent. | Worcester Mas. Lib. | A folio on paper. It has a very curious drawing of masons at work as a frontispiece, with the words, "Inigo Jones delin." | G ₂ |
| 26 | <i>Antiquity</i> . . | 1686 | Lodge of Anti- quity, acting by Immemorial Constitution, London, No 2. | A parchment roll 9 feet in length and 11 inches in width. It has an illuminated heading, containing the Royal Arms, with the initials I 2 R (James 2nd Rex), supported by the arms of the City of London and those of the Masons Company, viz.: sable, on a chevron between 3 towers, a pair of compasses extended. | D ₁₅ |
| 27 | <i>Colonel Clerke</i> . [A transcript of this MS. is given in this work, ante, pp. 210-217.] | 1686 | Grand Lodge of England. | Written on two parchment skins fastened together, 5 feet in length and 13 inches in width. This MS. has a finely illuminated heading, containing the Royal Arms, on either side of which the inscription "J 2nd R—1686," supported by the City Arms and those of the Masons Company: a plain chevron and 3 towers. | D ₁₆ |
| 28 | <i>Embleton</i> . . | †17th cent. | West Yorks. Mas. Lib. | Six strips of vellum, sewn together, 12 feet in length and about 5 inches in width. Portions at the end seem to have been added. | E ₇ |
| 29 | <i>Waistell</i> . . . | 1693 | West Yorks. Mas. Lib. | Six pieces of paper stitched together so as to form a roll 7 feet in length and 6 inches in width. Signed, Henry Kipling, 1693. | E ₈ |

| No. | TITLE. | DATE. | REPOSITORY. | DESCRIPTION OF MS. | CLASS. |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 30 | <i>York, No. 4.</i> | 1693 | York Lodge, No. 236. | A paper roll 10½ feet long by 6 inches wide, written by Mark Kypling. | E ₉ |
| 31 | <i>Hope</i> | †17th cent. | Lodge of Hope, No. 302. | A paper roll, mounted on parchment, 6 feet long and 6 inches wide. | E ₅ |
| 32 | <i>York, No. 5 .</i> | †17th cent. | York Lodge, No. 236. | A paper roll 7½ feet long by 8 inches wide | D ₁₇ |
| 33 | <i>York, No. 6 .</i> | †17th cent. | York Lodge, No. 236. | A parchment roll | D ₁₈ |
| 34 | <i>Colne, No. 1 .</i> | †17th cent. | Colne Lodge, No. 116. | A paper roll. It has a rough sketch of the arms of the Masons Company: Plain, chevron and towers. | D ₁₉ |
| 35 | <i>Clapham . . .</i> | †17th cent. | West Yorks. Mas. Lib. | On six sheets of paper, 6 inches by 7½ inches, evidently at one time sewn together in book-form. | D ₂₀ |
| 36 | <i>Dumfries, Kil-winning, No. 1</i> | †17th cent. | Dumfries Kil. Lo., No. 55. | Written on three leaves of paper, 15 by 12 inches | D ₂₁ |
| 37 | <i>Hughan . . .</i> | †17th cent. | West Yorks. Mas. Lib. | Five strips of parchment over roll, 8½ feet, nearly 6 inches in width. | D ₂₂ |
| 38 | <i>Dauntsey. . .</i> | †17th cent. | R Dauntsey, Esq., Manchester. | On paper, in book form; twenty-one pages of text | D ₂₃ |
| 39 | <i>Dumfries, Kil-winning, No. 2</i> | †17th cent. | Dumfries Kil. Lo., No. 53. | A paper roll of three sheets of paper, 4 feet long by 7½ inches wide. | D ₂₄ |
| 40 | <i>Dumfries, Kil-winning, No. 3</i> | †17th cent. | Dumfries Kil. Lo., No. 53. | A vellum roll, 14½ feet long by 5 and 6 inches wide, made up of seven strips joined together. | D ₂₅ |
| 41 | <i>Harris, No. 1 .</i> | †17th cent. | Bedford Lodge, No. 157. | A parchment roll over 9 feet long by 8¼ inches wide. | D ₂₆ |
| 42 | <i>Alnwick . . .</i> | 1701 | Alderman Robert-son, Alnwick. | Written on the first twelve pages of the record book of the Company and Fellowship of Freemasons of Alnwick, dated 29th September, 1701. | E ₁₀ |
| 43 | <i>Dumfries, Kil-winning, No. 4</i> | *18th cent. | Dumfries Kil. Lo., No. 53. | In book form, 8 by 4 inches, originally a roll | H ₁ |
| 44 | <i>York, No. 2 .</i> | 1704 | York Lodge, No. 236. | A parchment roll, 5 feet long by 7½ inches wide | D ₂₇ |

| NO. | TITLE. | DATE. | REPOSITORY. | DESCRIPTION OF MS. | CLASS. |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------|--|---|-----------------|
| 45 | <i>Scarborough</i> . | 1705 | Grand Lodge of Canada. | A parchment roll has the arms of the Masons Company, very similar to the original grant of 1472; <i>i.e.</i> an engrailed chevron between 3 castles, antique. | E ₁₁ |
| 46 | <i>Colne, No. 2</i> . | *18th cent. | Royal Lancashire Lodge, No. 116. | A paper roll. | D ₂₈ |
| 47 | <i>Papworth</i> . . | *18th cent. | Wyatt Papworth, Esq., London. | In book form of twenty-four folios, orininally a roll on paper. It has a rough sketch of the Masons' Arms, late type. | D ₃₀ |
| 48 | <i>Cama</i> | *18th cent. | Quatuor Coronati Lo. Lib., No. 2076. | Written on four sheets of paper (sixteen pages), stitched together bookwise; covers thirteen pages; 8 inches wide and 12½ high. | D ₂₉ |
| 49 | <i>Phillips, No. 3</i> . | *18th cent. | The Rev. J. E. A. Fenwick, Cheltenham. | Paper, marble paper cover, book form, 8vo. | D ₃₁ |
| 50 | <i>Haddon</i> . . . | 1723 | J. S. Haddon, Esq., Wellington. | This MS. has a rough sketch of the arms of the Masons Company of the late type: plain, chevron, etc. | D ₃₂ |
| 51 | <i>Spencer</i> . . . | 1726 | E. T. Carson, Esq., Cincinnati, U.S.A. | A small book, written in the "copper plate" style, on paper | G ₁ |
| 52 | <i>Woodford</i> . . | 1728 | Quatuor Coronati Lodge Lib. | Small octavo, on paper, in book form | B ₂ |
| 53 | <i>Supreme Council</i> | 1728 | Supreme Council, 33°, London. | On paper, in book form, small octavo | B ₃ |
| 54 | <i>Gateshead</i> . . | *18th cent. | Lodge of Industry, No. 48. | A Lodge record, on paper, modernized | H ₂ |
| 55 | <i>Rawlinson</i> . . | *18th cent. | Bodleian Lib., Oxford. | Written in a book of MS. scraps, etc., in the Bodleian Library . | F ₄ |
| 56 | <i>Probity</i> . . . | *18th cent. | Probity Lodge, No. 61. | Written and signed by William Jubb; five leaves of paper . | D ₃₃ |
| 57 | <i>Thistle Lodge MS.</i> | 1756 | Lodge No. 62, Dumfries. | Written in the first minute book, and signed by over sixty early members of the Lodge. | H ₃ |
| 58 | <i>Melrose, No. 3</i> . | 1762 | Melrose Lodge, No. 1 <i>bis</i> . | A copy of No. 20, or Class D ₁₂ . | D ₃₅ |
| 59 | <i>Crane, No. 1</i> . | 1781 | Cestrian Lodge, No. 425. | Extract "from a parchment MS.," on paper | E ₁₂ |

| NO. | TITLE. | DATE. | REPOSITORY. | DESCRIPTION OF MS. | CLASS. |
|-----|--|----------------|---|---|-----------------|
| 60 | <i>Crane, No. 2</i> . [a fragment]. | 1781 | Cestrian Lodge, No. 425. | Extract "from a parchment MS.," on paper | C ₃ |
| 61 | <i>Wren</i> | †18th cent. | Missing since the late Mr. Wood- ford's decease. | Parchment roll signed L. Higson and S. Browne, December 4th, 1852. A copy of an older MS. | E ₁₃ |
| 62 | <i>Harris, No. 2</i> . | †18th cent. | British Museum MS., bound up with a copy of the Freemason's Calendar for 1781. | Written on paper, small quarto size. | D ₃₄ |
| 63 | <i>Tunnah</i> | 1828 | Quatuor Coronati Lodge Lib. | Written on paper, foolscap size . | E ₁₄ |

*Missing Versions of the MS. Constitutions that have been noted
from time to time by various authors.*

| NO. | TITLE. | DATE. | AUTHORITY. | REMARKS. |
|-----|---|-----------------------|--|--|
| × 1 | <i>Melrose, No. 1.</i> | 1581 | Melrose Lodge, No. 1, <i>bis</i> | Copied in 1674. |
| × 2 | <i>Baker MS.</i> | 17th century. | Noted by Dr. Rawlinson about 1730. | |
| × 3 | <i>Morgan MS.</i> | 17th century. | Noted in the records of the "Ancients," 1752. | |
| × 4 | <i>Dermott.</i> | Temp., Henry VII. | Noted in the records of the "Ancients," 1752. | |
| × 5 | <i>Wilson.</i> | Temp., Henry VIII. | Lodge of Antiquity, Lon- don, No. 2. | Noted in 1778. |
| × 6 | <i>York, No. 3.</i> | 1630 | Grand Lodge of York, extinct. | Noted in an inven- tory dated 1779. |
| × 7 | <i>The Masons Company of London.</i> [For particulars of this MS., see Introduc- tion and note to Inventory of 1722.] | 16th century. ? | The Inventories of the Company's goods made in the years 1665-1676 and 1722 all mention this MS. of the consti- tution of the accepted masons. It has been missing since the middle of the 18th century. | Sir Francis Pal- grave drew atten- tion to this MS. in the <i>Edinburgh Review</i> , April, 1839, and re- marked that it was "no longer in the Company's chest." |

Printed Versions or portions of MS. Constitutions mentioned by certain writers which cannot now be identified with those existing.

| AUTHOR. | DATE. | TITLE OF WORK. | CLASS. |
|-----------|-------|---|-----------------|
| Dr. Plot. | 1686 | <i>The National History of Staffordshire.</i> | C ₁ |
| Roberts. | 1722 | <i>The Old Constitutions.</i> | F ₁ |
| Briscoe. | 1724 | <i>The Secret History of the Freemasons, 1724.</i> | E ₁₅ |
| Cole. | 1728 | <i>Cole's Reproductions, 1728.</i> | G ₃ |
| Langley. | 1738 | <i>The Builders Compleat Assistant, by Batty Langley, 1738.</i> | H ₄ |
| Dodd. | 1739 | <i>The Beginning and First Foundation of the Most Worthy Craft of Masonry. Printed for Mrs. Dodd. London, 1739.</i> | G ₄ |
| Krause. | 1808 | "Not accepted." | H ₅ |
| Dowland. | 1815 | <i>The Gentleman's Magazine, 1815.</i> | D ₃₆ |
| Hargrove. | 1818 | <i>History of York, by W. Hargrove.</i> | H ₆ |

Of these manuscripts it may be noted that no two are exactly alike ; they have, however, as we have before stated, been arranged by students of the subject into groups or families according as they are worded.

One small group in particular, that of the *Harleian MS.*, No. 1,942, No. 13 on the list, is remarkable on account of its containing certain "new articles" as they are termed.

These articles supply instructions regulating the admission of persons about to be accepted, and are of great interest to members of the Masons Company, inasmuch as they might have been drafted for or from the existing rules of the Masons' Hall Lodge.

They are as follows :—

Harleian MS., No. 1,942, date *circa* 1600–1650.

"THE NEW ARTICLES."

Article 26.—"Noe person (of what degree soever) bee accepted a free mason, unless hee shall have a lodge of five free masons at least ; whereof one

to be a master, or warden, of that limitt, or deviation, wherein such Lodge shalbee kept, and another of the trade of free masonry."

Article 27.—"That no p'son shalbee accepted a Free Mason, but such as are of able body, honest parentage, good reputacon, and observers of the laws of the land."

Article 28.—"That noe p'son hereafter be accepted free mason, nor shalbee admitted into any lodge or assembly untill hee hath brought a certificate of the time of adoption from the Lodge yt accepted him, unto the master of that limit, and deviation, where such Lodge was kept, which sayd master shall enrole the same in parchm^t in a roll to bee kept for that purpose, to give an aco^t of all such acceptions at every general assembly."

Article 29.—"That every person whoe now is free mason, shall bring to the master a note of the time of his acception to the end the same may bee enroled in such priority of place as the p'son shall deserve, and to y^e end the whole company and fellows may the better know each other."

Article 30.¹—"That for the future the sayd society, company, and fraternity of Free Masons, shalbee regulated and governed by one master, and assembly, and wardens, as ye said Company shall think fit to chose, at every yearly generall assembly."

Article 31.—"That noe p'son shalbe accepted a Free Mason, or know the secrets of the said Society, until hee hath first taken the oath of secrecy hereafter following: 'I, A. B., doe in the presence of Almighty God, and my fellowes, and brethren here present, promise and declare, that I will not at any time hereafter, by any act or circumstances whatsoever, directly or indirectly, publish, discover, reveale, or make knowne any of the secrets, priviledges, or counsells, of the fraternity or fellowship of Free Masonry, which at this time, or any time hereafter, shalbee made known unto mee soe helpe mee God, and the holy contents of this booke.'"

Before leaving Ashmole and the Masons' Hall Lodge, there is yet another MS. preserved in the British Museum, which to the curious reader will be of interest, and by those who, having been initiated into the Society of Free and Accepted Masons, have as

¹ Article 30 might almost have been drafted direct from the existing rules of the Masons Company, concerning the master, wardens, and assistants (or as the MS. terms them, assembly), and this is most remarkable.

yet not made its acquaintance, it will be perused with considerable interest.

It professes to be a catechism, or certain questions and answers that were used by the Society about the date of Ashmole's visit to Basinghall Street, and is known in the new MS. Catalogue as "Article 24, Sloane MS. 3329."¹

From the handwriting we may place the date at circa 1700.

After describing certain so-called signs, which we may also call wonders, as for example, "twisting their eyes toward the east, and twisting their mouth toward y^e west," also after stating that "at the table drinking when the glass goes not fast enough they say 'star the guile,'"² the MS. continues in these words :—

[Extracts from the *Sloane MS.*, Brit. Mus., No. 3,329.]

"Here followeth their Private discourse by Way of Question and Answer"

Questioner. Are you a Mason

Answ^r. Yes I am a freemason

Q. How shall I know you

A. By perfect signes and tokens and the first poynts of my Ent^rance

Q. Which is the first signe or token shew me the first and I will shew you the second

A. The first is heal and Conceal or Conceal and keep secrett by no less paine than cutting my tongue from my throat

Q. Where were you made a Mason

A. In a just perfect and Lawfull Lodge

Q. What is a just and perfect or just and Lawfull Lodge

A. A just and perfect Lodge is two Interprintices two fellow craftes and two Mast^{rs} more or fewer the more the merrier the fewer the Bett^r Chear but if need require five will serve that is two Interprintices two fellow Craftes and one Mast^r on the highest hill or Lowest Valley of the World without the crow of a Cock or the bark of a Dogg

¹ This MS. was first published by the late Rev. A. F. A. Woodford in 1872, and again in 1885.

² "Star the guile." Wright's *Dict. of Obsolete Words* gives "guile" = as much liquor as is brewed at once; and it is possible that "star" may be intended for "stir" or "circulate"—*ergo*, "Pass the bottle or cup." (*Note from Mr. G. W. Speth.*)

- Q. From whome do you derive your principals
 A. From a great^r than you
 Q. Who is there on earth that is great^r than a free mason
 A. He y^t was caryed to y^e highest pinnicall of the Temple of Jerusalem
 Q. Whith^r is your Lodge shut or open
 A. It is shut
 Q. Where Lyes the keys of the Lodg doore
 A. They Ley in a bound Case or und^r a three cornerd pavem^t about a foote and halfe from the Lodge door
 Q. W^t is the key of your Lodge doors made of
 A. It is not made of Wood Stone Iron or steel or any sort of mettle but the tongue of a good report behind a Broth^{rs} back as well as before his face
 Q. How many Jewles belong to your Lodge
 A. There are three the Square pavem^t the blazing Star and the Danty tassley
 Q. How long is the cable rope of your Lodge
 A. As Long as from the Lop of the Liver to the root of the tongue
 Q. How many Lights are in your Lodge
 A. Three the sun the mast^r and the Square
 Q. How high is your Lodge
 A. Without foots yards or Inches it reaches to heaven
 Q. How Stood your Lodge
 A. East and West as all holly Temples Stand
 Q. W^{ch} is the mast^{rs} place in the Lodge
 A. The east place is the mast^{rs} place in the Lodge and the Jewell resteth on him first and he setteth men to work w^t the mast^{rs} have in the forenoon the wardens reap in the afternoon

In some places they discourse as followeth.

- Q. Where was the word first given
 A. At the Tower of Babylon
 Q. Where did they first call their Lodge
 A. At the Holy Chapell of St. John
 Q. Whow stood your Lodge
 A. As the said holy Chapell and all other holy Temples stand east and west
 Q. How many lights are in your Lodge
 A. Two one to see to go in and another to see to work
 Q. What were you sworne by

A. By god and the Square

Q. Whither above the Cloathes or und^r the Cloathes

A. Und^r the Cloathes

Q. Und^r what Arme

A. Und^r the right Arme. God is Gratfull to all Worshipfull Mast^{rs} and fellows in that Worshipfull Lodge from whence we Last came, and to you good fellow. w^t is your name

A. J or B then giving the grip of the hand he will say Broth^r John greet you well you

A. gods good greeting to you dear Broth^r

Another salutation is giving the mast^{rs} or fellows grip saying the right worshipfull the mast^{rs} and fellows in that worshipfull Lodge from whence we Last came greet you greet you greet you well, then he will reply Gods greeting to you dear Brother. Another they have called the mast^{rs} word and is Maharyn which is always divided into two words and Standing close With their Breasts to each oth^r the inside of Each oth^{rs} right Ankle joynts the mast^{rs} grip by their right hands and the top of their Left hand fingers thrust close on ye small of each oth^{rs} Backbone and in that posture they Stand till they whisp^r in each oth^{rs} eares y^e one Maha = the oth^r repleys Ryn

From the same manuscript we gather that the oath taken at the time of Ashmole might have been as follows :—

The Oath.

The mason word and everything therein contained you shall keep secrett you shall never put it in writing directly or Indirectly you shall keep all that we or your attend^{rs} shall bid you keep secret from Man Woman and Child, Stock or Stone and never reveal it but to a brother or in a Lodge of Free-masons and truly observe the Charges in ye C^onstitu^on all this you promise and swere faithfully to keep and observe without any mann^r of Equivocation or mentall resarvation directly or indirectly so help you god and by the Contents of this book

So he kisses the book &c.

How long the speculative division, or accepted members, continued to meet at Masons' Hall after 1682, we cannot tell, as they no doubt had separate minute and cash-books. Consequently we do not find any further evidence except the entry in the inventory of

1722, when the MS. Constitutions containing the old Masons' legend were again noted as being still in the possession of the Company.

It is very probable that at or about this time some of the members joined other Lodges of a more convivial character, such as those which met in the vicinity of St. Paul's Cathedral, particularly the Lodge held at the Goose and Gridiron, now known as the Lodge of Antiquity.

Concerning this Lodge, which prides itself on being the oldest, we must not forget that it has in its custody the mallet which tradition says Charles II. used when laying the foundation stone of St. Paul's Cathedral, on June 21st, 1675.¹

On a silver plate, let into the head of the mallet, is the following inscription :—

By order of the M.W. The Grand Master
His Royal Highness The Duke of Sussex &c. &c.
and W. Master of the Lodge of Antiquity,
And with the concurrence of the Brethren of the
Lodge, this plate has been engraved and affixed
to this *Mallet* A.L. 5831 ; A.D. 1827
To commemorate that this, being the same Mallet, with which
His Majesty King Charles the Second
levelled the foundation Stone of
S^t Pauls Cathedral A.L. 5677, A.D. 1673
was presented to the Old Lodge of S^t Pauls
Now the Lodge of Antiquity
Acting by immemorial constitution.
By *Brother Sir Christopher Wren*, R.W.D.G.M.
Worshipful Master of this Lodge
and Architect of that edifice.

Of the old tavern the "Goose and Gridiron" we know but little.

¹ There is no documentary evidence of Charles II. laying the foundation stone. Indeed, in the *Memoirs of the Family of Strong*, written in 1716, it is distinctly said that Thomas Strong, the master mason under Sir C. Wren, laid the foundation stone himself, and history is silent as to the presence even of Charles II. at all on that occasion.

Previous to the great fire the Company of Masons frequented it occasionally, at which time it was known as "The Mitre," in Paul's Churchyard. It stood at the north-west corner, and was at that time the headquarters of a musical society, whose arms, the lyre of Apollo, with a swan as the crest, were appropriated, when the house was rebuilt after the fire, as the new sign in place of the mitre.¹ This classical symbol was soon converted by the vulgar into the "Goose and Gridiron," by which name the house was afterwards known.

^{1683.}
The Search. But, to return again to the chronicle of the Company, we notice this year that the profits arising from the Company's right of search were farmed out to the renter warden, as by the following extract will be seen :—

^{Feb. 31st.} Itt is this day ordered that Mr. John Thompson shall have all the proffitt of the search of stone from this day to Lady day come twelve month for 20^l and that this Company shall give a writeing under the Companys Com̄on Seale to impower him or his Deputy to search ; and after that for one year or two years after that at 20^l p. an. And if the said Mr. Thompson shall desire to hold itt, to be paid quarterly by 5^l a quarter, the first paym^t to begin at Midsum̄er next. And that if any one person shall oppose the payment of the search that an Accon shall be com̄enced against such person, and that the Company is to beare the charge of the first suite.

^{1683.}
^{The Quo}
^{Warranto.} This year the Company was served with a Writ of Quo Warranto, and it appears by the accounts that the Charter was preserved intact on the payment of fifty pounds.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid for the new Charter | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Paid the Secondary of the compter about the Quo Warranto | 0 | 6 | 8 |

This Quo Warranto was a writ demanding to be shown by what right a person or corporation held an office or estate regulated by Edward I.

¹ Chambers, *Book of Days*.

Charles II. made great use of this form of procedure to evict Nonconformists from Church rectories and vicarages after the Restoration, in order that the old Church livings might be restored to the Anglican clergy. Corporations were, however, frequently served with it as a means of obtaining fees, etc., for the right of continuing their privileges.

1684. The accounts show the following entry in connection with the Quo Warranto :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid to the Clerk for his trouble and charges going to Windsor about the Charter | 5 | 0 | 0 |

1685.
Feb. 6th. Charles II. died at Whitehall.

1686.
August 13th. At a Court of the Assistants held this day, it was ordered "that a book be made of all the names of the members of the Company, and at the next Court every member shall be taxed towards raising money for the payment of debt."

Sept. 17th. At this court the following was the scale of taxation fixed upon :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| For Members of the Court, each | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| For Liverymen | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| For Shopkeepers | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Others of the Yeomanry | 0 | 10 | 0 |

James II. and the City Companies. James II., anxious to obtain money from the City, began by attacking the companies and obliging them by confiscating their existing charters to petition for new ones, evidently from a mistaken idea of the royal prerogative. The Masons, with other companies, received this royal order.

1687. The following is a memorandum in the Court book :—

This 10th day of October 1687 at a Meeting at Masons Hall came an order from the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen with an order from the King and Council as follows :—

AT THE COURT AT WINDSOR

25th September 1687.

By the King's most excellent Majesty and the Lords of his Most Hon^{ble} Privy Council Whereas by the late Charter granted to the several companies of London, it is provided that His Majesty his heirs, etc., may by order in Council from time to time displace and remove the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the said several companies or any of them, and thereupon the place or places of such persons so removed shall be void and whereas His Majesty hath thought fit that several members of the said several companies should be removed, His Majesty in Council is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered accordingly :

That John Thompson, Warden, Thomas Shorthose, Abraham Storey, John Shorthose, Nicholas Young, John Martin, William Hammond, Michael Todd, Jasper Latham, Richard Crooke, Thomas Craven and William Stanbrough, Assistants of the Company of Masons, be, and they are hereby removed and displaced from being any longer Warden or Assistants of the said company. And His Majesty is further pleased to order that the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen do forthwith signify His Majesty's pleasure herein to said company.

WILLIAM BRIDGEMAN.

^{1686-7.} The receipt of this order does not seem to have had much effect on the Company. Doubtless they knew it was only another mode of obtaining a subsidy. The Court did not proceed to fill up the vacancies caused by the removal of the several members named in the order ; as a matter of fact, some of them continued to attend the Court.

^{A Second Charter.} Matters, however, were settled by obtaining a new charter¹ from King James, practically confirming that of Charles II. This having been done, the Company received a royal order restoring the expelled members to their original position on the Court of Assistants.

¹ The new Charter, dated February 9th, 2nd James II., begins by reciting that "the Master Wardens and commonalty of the company of masons had surrendered all their powers, franchise, privileges and authorities of or concerning the electing, &c., &c., of any persons into the several offices of Master, Wardens, and Assistants, which surrender His Majesty had accepted" (!). The fees for obtaining the Charter came to over £125. This sum was raised by a subscription among the members.

This document is dated October 7th, 1688, and is as follows :—

1688.
Oct. 7th. His Majesty having been graciously pleased to restore to this City its ancient franchises and required by his Charter lately given to that purpose that this company should cause to be restored to their respective places all such liverymen as were of the livery of the company at the time of the late judgment given against this City upon the Quo Warranto. It is therefore ordered that all such members of the respective Livery Companies now living as were of the Livery at the time of the said judgment be forthwith restored to their said places in their respective companies accordingly. And it is ordered that the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of all the said Companies do forthwith see the same performed and executed, and that the Clerk of every company have notice immediately to repair to Mr. Town Clerk and take a copy of this order to be entered in their books and to communicate the same to the Master and Wardens of their respective companies.

The Fall of
the Stuarts. The reign of James II. was now fast drawing to a close ; and from the following order from the Lord Mayor we see how ready the citizens were to free themselves from this misguided monarch :—

1688-9.
Jan. 4th. By virtue of His Highness the Prince of Orange his letter to the Sheriffs of London and their warrant thereupon so directed. These are to will and require you forthwith to warn the Livery of your company to appear at Guildhall on Wednesday next January 9th by 9 of the clock in the forenoon for electing of four citizens of London to serve as members for the said city at a Parliament to be holden at Westminster on the 22nd January inst, hereof fail not.

HAMMOND.

Sergeant at Mace.

1688-9.
Jan. 10th. The Prince of Orange obtains a loan of £200,000 from the City.

The following items are from the accounts of the year 1688, some of which refer to expenses on Lord Mayor's Day. Also we notice the New River water mentioned :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid engraving a copper plate | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| Paid fishmonger | 1 | 8 | 6 |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| Paid Cook | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| „ The Milliner | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| „ The Butcher | 0 | 17 | 6 |
| „ For Fruit | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| „ The Poulterer | 3 | 15 | 0 |
| „ The Vintner | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| „ The Whifflers | 0 | 17 | 6 |
| „ For Cloth at the stand | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| „ For the use of a blue cloak | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| „ For rent of the river water for the Hall | 1 | 12 | 6 |
| „ For Chimney money | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| „ Council for advice about search money | 1 | 1 | 6 |

^{1689.}
Quarterage. The old difficulty of obtaining the quarterage due from members of the Company was again before the Court.

May 8th. A notice was ordered to be sent to each member of the Company not to employ any workman unless he paid quarterage to the Hall.

^{1689-90.}
Jan. 21st. It is this day ordered that the Clerk do cause Mr. John Young to be arrested for not bringing in his accounts of renter Warden.

^{1691.}
Christopher Kempster. Christopher Kempster chosen master of the Company. He was one of the country masons who came to London after the great fire. Leaving Oxfordshire at the instigation of Thomas Strong, we find him engaged with the brothers Strong in most of their contracts and other works.

After a successful business career Kempster retired to his native town of Burford, where he had purchased an estate and certain stone quarries, called to this day “Kitts Quarries.” On this estate he erected a modest residence, still existing. Over one of the windows may be seen the following inscription :—

CHRISTOPHER KEMPSTER BUILT THIS IN 1689.

Kempster died in 1725, and lies buried in Burford Church, where a monument bears the following lines :—

From a Mural Tablet in Burford Church, Oxon :—



Near this place lies interred the body
of Christopher Kempster, Mason of
The City of London, and of the Company
of Masons

He was a person eminent in his profession
and built several Churches in the said
City and was many years employed in
building the cathedral and dome of
Saint Pauls

He left behind him the character of a
tender husband and loving father,
hospitable neighbour and considerable
benefactor to the poor, he lived in perfect
love and amity with his dear wife near
sixty years by whom he had five sons
and seven daughters

He chose this parish in which he was
born for a place of retreat from business
in his later years which he employed
with the greatest care and study to
prepare himself for a blessed
eternity

He died Aug 12 1725
in the 89th year of his age

Mark y^e perfect man
and behold y^e upright
for y^e end of that man
is peace

His son William erected this in memory of his Father

1692. Continuing our chronicle of the Company, we find the following items from the Lord Mayor's Day expenses:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| <i>Item.</i> Paid for three quarters of a pound of tobacco | 0 | 1 | 6 |

The following entries are from the Court books :

1693.
April 6th. It is this day ordered that the quarterage henceforward be paid 6*d.* a quarter by every member.

Apprentices.
1693 4.
Feb. 14th. "This day the Court, taking in consideration the great injury this company sustains by Masons that are free of other companys, by their binding and making free their apprentices from this company, Therefore it is this day ordered that petition be presented to the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council for an Act of Common Council to redress this grievance."

Insurance.
1694.
June 14th. "It is this day ordered that the Hall and premises be insured in some office to the value of £700 and that it be entered on or before Midsummer day next ensuing by the Master, Wardens and Court of this Company."

Quarterage.
1694.
Sept. 25th. "It is this day ordered that the several members hereunder written do go to the several parts of this City and take an account of the Freemen of this Company and who are fit to be made free thereof and to collect such quarterage as can be received."

Fines.
1694.
Oct. 9th. "It is this day ordered by the Court that Warden Crooke, Mr. Stanton and Mr. Kempster be fined 2*s.* 6*d.* each for not having their gowns.

"It is ordered that Mr. Walker be fined 2*s.* 6*d.* for not appearing at the search the 26th September last.

"The Act of Common Council for making all Masons take up the freedom of this company be delivered to all that keep shops and exercise the trade of a Mason within the limits of our Charter."

1695. The following particulars of the feast of Lord Mayor's Day are entered in the Court books :—

"Lord Mayor's Day."

1695.
Oct. 29th.

"Standard bearers and Whifflers ordered to attend.
The Company dined in their Hall.

Bill of Fare.

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Three boiled pullets with oysters, sausages & bacon | 0 | 13 | 6 |
| A chine of Pork and two capons | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Two roast geese | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Minced Pies | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Two roast capons | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| One large sirloin of beef | 0 | 12 | 0 |

And for breakfast :

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----|----|
| One large fore rib of beef | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Two necks of mutton broth | 0 | 5 | 0" |

1695.
Inventory
taken.

An inventory was taken this year of the goods of the Company. Among some of the items we find "an old Booke of Masons' Constitutions." The plate is mentioned as follows : "One tankard, one bowle, one sack-cupp, and two bowles tipped with silver." From this it is evident that certain articles mentioned in the previous inventories had been parted with.

1696.
The Strong
family.

Edward Strong was this year elected master of the Company.

In the year 1670, as before stated, Thomas Strong, son of Valentine Strong, of Taynton, in Oxfordshire, mason and quarry-owner, was induced, by the relaxation of certain rules concerning the freedom of the Masons Company, to come to London and undertake the rebuilding of St. Paul's Cathedral, which edifice had fallen a victim, with most of the City churches, to the Great Fire of 1666.

Thomas Strong also invited his three brothers and certain other masons of his neighbourhood to journey to London and assist him in his numerous works.

Of these brothers, Edward, the fifth son of Valentine Strong, was perhaps the most successful. From Clutterbuck's *History of*

Hertfordshire we gather the following particulars of this Edward Strong, taken from a family MS. containing some account of the family and their works as master masons or contractors.

After giving full particulars of Valentine Strong and his eldest son, Thomas, this memoir goes on to say :—

“On the death of his brother Thomas, Edward Strong continued to carry on the several works that his brother had in hand as well as what was by contract, which was the east end of the cathedral of S. Pauls (from the middle of the most eastwardly window on the north side), till the same was finished as it now is. Also the north portico of the said cathedral, together with the north-west leg or quarter of the great dome: and so continued westward to the middle of the window of the morning prayer chapel, to the middle line of the body of the said church, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren, until the same was finished. The said Edward Strong finished what was left undone of St. Austins Church and St. Bennets, Paul’s Wharf.

“The said Edward Strong continued carrying on the building of St. Stephens, Walbrook, with Mr. Christopher Kempster,¹ who had been partner with his brother Thomas Strong, till the said church and tower were finished.

“In the year 1681 Edward Strong laid the foundations of St. Mildred, Bread Street, and did all the masons work in the said church.

“In the year 1683 he began to rebuild the parish church of St. Clements, East Cheap, both stone and brickwork, and finished the same.

“In the year 1684 he laid the foundation of a house for King Charles the Second at Winchester, in which Mr. Christopher Kempster before mentioned was in partnership with him, for the foundations only; and from the water table upwards, the said Ed-

¹ Christopher Kempster was master of the Company in 1691.

ward Strong had the greatest share of the masons work, and had all the designs of all the masons work committed to his care, by Sir Christopher Wren, the surveyor.

“In the year 1684 &c. he built the parish church of St. Mary Magdalen, Old Fish Street. In the year 1687 &c. he built the parish church of St. Michael Royal, upon College Hill; In the year 1694 he performed all the stonework of Sir John Norden’s Hospital, on Blackheath, near Greenwich.

“In the year 1695 he rebuilt part of St. Vedart Foster-Lane; In this work he took in as partner Mr. William Collins.¹

“In the year 1695 he began the stonework of the building of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich in Kent, in partnership with Mr. Thomas Hill² afterwards with Mr. Ephraim Beacham³ who retired in favour of his son Mr. Edward Strong junr.⁴

“In the year 1705 Messrs. Edward Strong and son began to build Blenheim House in Oxfordshire, and carried it on till the 12th of July 1712, at which time a stop was put to the building, by the (supposed) enemies of the Duke of Marlborough.

“About the year 1706 Edward Strong junr. began the lanthorn on the dome of St. Pauls, London, and on the 26th of October 1708 Edward Strong senr. laid the last stone upon the same.

“Also the said Edward Strong junr. laid all the marble paving under the said dome, and in the cross aisles to the north and south porticoes.”

Clutterbuck further says of Edward Strong, sen. :—

“This deserving member of society, during a life of laborious industry, raised the fabric of his own fortune, and became possessed of many considerable estates in London, Middlesex, and Hertfordshire. He died at the advanced age of seventy-one, and was buried

¹ William Collins, master of the Company in 1704.

² Thomas Hill, master of the Company in 1699.

³ Ephraim Beacham, master in 1698.

⁴ Edward Strong, master in 1718.

in the church of St. Peter in the town of St. Albans, where there is a monument erected to his memory."

The monument to the memory of Edward Strong in St. Peter's Church, St. Albans, is of an ornamental character, formed of white and grey marble ; a white marble bust of Strong stands on the top. Engraved upon the centre slab are the following inscriptions :—

"Near this Place are Deposited
the Remains of

EDWARD STRONG,

Citizen & Mason of LONDON.

Whose Masterly Abilities & Skill in his Profefsion.

The Many Publick Structures He was Employed in Raising

Will most Justly manifest to late Posterity

In Erecting the Edifice of S^t. PAUL.

Several years of his Life were Spent,

Even from the Foundation to his Laying the Last Stone

And herein [equally with its Ingenious Architect

S^r CHRISTOPHER WREN

And its truly Pious Diocesan Bishop COMPTON]

He shared the Felicity

Of Seeing both the Beginning and Finishing

of that Stupendous Fabrick.

In Piety to his GOD.

In Iustice, Fidelity, Kindness and Charity to his Neighbour,

In Temperance, Humility, Contempt of the World,

and the due Government of all his Appetites and Passions

In Conjugal and Paternal Affection,

In every Relation, every Action, and Scene of Life

He was, what the Best Man, the Best Christian,

Would desire to be, at the Hour of Death.

He died the 8th of February MDCCXXIII.

In the 72^d year of his Age.

Near Him lyeth

MARTHA

19 Years his most Beloved Wife,

A Wife in all Respects Worthy of Such an Husband.

She Died

y^e 15th of June MDCCXXV Aged 72 Years."

On a small panel beneath, at the foot of the monument,—

"Their only Daughter

ELIZABETH NEW of Newbarns Widow,

died 26. Oct^r. 1747 Aged 71 Years."

May 15th.
A "Search."
1696.

The following particulars occur this year of a "search"
made of stone lying in the river Thames :—

Landed on Hammerslys Wharf for Mr. Woolfe as followith, viz : Of
Purbeck 2900 foot and 200 of channel ; Broke 30 foot as bad and deficient.

1696.
June 30th.

" Ordered that for the future no more drink be delivered
to any member of this Society or others by the Companys
tenants without they pay for the same and that no further scores
shall be run there upon the Companys Account.

" Ordered that Mr. Jones of Mile End be prosecuted by a way of
indictment for using the Mason trade without having served seven
years as apprentices, if witnesses can be got."

£ s. d.

| | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|-----|
| 1699. | Spent in going with Mr. Craven and the Beadle getting | | | |
| | subscriptions to dine with the Lord Mayor | . | 0 | 8 6 |
| | Paid at the Lord Mayors. | . | 2 | 7 6 |

1700.
April 11th.

" This day the Court met to consider accepting an invi-
tation to dine with the Lord Mayor.

" It was ordered that Mr. Warden Collins be desired to get what
members he can to dine with the Right Hon^{ble} the Lord Mayor upon
Thursday next, and that the Beadle do give each person that resolves
to go, notice in writing the day before that they be at S. Vedest

Foster Lane Church punctually at 12 o'clock in order to the sealing up of each mans money in a bag for an offering to his Lordship, and that they have their gowns without their hoods¹ at the same place ready to put on. *And it is further ordered* that Mr. Warden Collins do give the Clerk fifty shillings to be disposed of amongst his Lordship's officers as is usually done by other inferior companies as follows :

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| To Mr. Sword Bearer | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| „ Mr. Common Cryer | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| „ The Carver | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| „ The Steward | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| „ The Porters | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| „ Yeoman Water side | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| „ The Butler | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| „ The Sergent of the Chamber | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| „ Youngmen | 0 | 6 | 0 |

and bring it to the account of the Company.”

The following entry illustrates how members of certain livery companies who exercised the trade of other crafts were exchanged by their respective courts :—

1701.
April 15th. “ It is ordered that the Master and both Wardens and three of the Assistants do treat with the company of Farriers touching the translating of Mr. Ryalls a Mason by trade but a Member of that company, for Mr. Chalk a member of this company and a Farrier by trade.”

Nov. 12th.
A General Search. A general search was ordered to be made. The district covered was to be divided into three divisions ; a number of members under a warden was ordered to meet at the Rainbow Coffee House in Fleet Street to search the Westminster

¹ The last time the old particoloured hood is mentioned as being part of the livery or clothing.

district and West End; at 7 a.m. another party was ordered to meet at Martin's Coffee House, near Guildhall, to search the City; and a third party were to meet at the George at Bridge House to search Southwark and the ships in the river.

The following week the Court met to receive particulars of the general search. When the amount of stone was found faulty or too small for the various purposes it was destined for, it was forfeited. It is stated also how much stone was ordered to be broken up in consequence. A list of men working who were not free of the Company was also taken.

In consequence of the late search, we find the Court order that the clerk do write letters to Mr. Wood, Mr. Dye, also to the marblers at Swanage, to Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Tobey at Portland, relating to the badness and undersized stone sent by them, and of the Company's resolution to break the same wherever they find it, etc., etc.

The Charter. 1702. The Duke of Marlborough's
1704. The Duke of Marlborough's
June 1st. Victory. The Charter of Incorporation granted to the Company by Charles II. was this day inspected, and a confirmation, or Charter of Exemplification, was granted by Queen Anne.

August 5th, 1704. The Duke of Marlborough obtained a complete victory over the French and Bavarians at Hockstet; 13,000 taken prisoners, and over 20,000 killed, wounded, or drowned in the Danube. On the news being received in England, a general thanksgiving was ordered to take place on September 6th.

Sept. 6th, 1704. The Masons Company receive a precept from the Lord Mayor to double the size of their stand and to attend with their livery men on the occasion of Her Majesty (Queen Anne) going to St. Paul's to return thanks for the late victory.

"The Beadle was directed to select men to carry the standards, and that they were to wear scarves as on Lord Mayor's Day. A Ribb of Beef and a gammon of Bacon was to be provided for breakfast at the Hall at 7 in the morning."

1704. This year a general search was again ordered.

The Fees for
Admission by
Redemption
lowered.
1708.

The Company, by reason of the completion of many of the buildings which had been destroyed by the great fire, was by this time beginning to experience more difficulty in obtaining new members. In order to induce men of other trades to join by redemption, the fees were this year lowered, for such admission, to three shillings and fourpence.

Protection.

The Company, by reason of the slackness of trade, resolved to petition Parliament to stop the importation of wrought stone and marble. As we have seen, the Company of Marblers, mentioned by Stow in 1600, had ere this become merged into that of the Masons.

A committee was appointed to draw up a petition, and the following is the text of the document¹ presented:—

The Case of the Company of Masons of the City of London, 1708.

“That the said Company was Incorporated by Royal Charter many years ago.”

“That Great Quantities of Wrought Marble have lately been Imported into this Kingdom from Italy, and other foreign Ports, and Exposed to sale here contrary to all former usage, to the great Prejudice of the Master Masons, and the ruin of their Poor Workmen, and Families, who (now the Public Structures of the Nation are near finished) will want Bread, and become Chargeable to their respective parishes unless such Importation be Prohibited, their sole livelihood being in the Sawing, and otherwise preparing the Unwrought marble fit for the masons and Workers therein who make the same sort of Commodities much better than those now Imported ready manufactured.”

“That if this growing Evil (under which the said Company labour at present) be not speedily redressed by Parliament there is no other prospect but an utter Extirpation of the Art of Working in Marble within this Kingdom.”

¹ British Museum Library, 516, M. 17 (8).

“Wherefore it is Humbly Pray’d that this Honourable House will Compassionate the declining Circumstances of the said Trade, and Encourage the future Improvement thereof by prohibiting the Importation of any Wrought Marble for Sale within this Kingdom.”

1708.
March 11th.

The following entry concerns the petition¹ mentioned :—
“Ordered that money raised by subscription of the Journeymen Masons and Labourers (for carrying on the bill in Parliament to prevent importation of wrought marble into great Britain) be returned to them again, that design having miscarried.

“It was also ordered that the treasurer of the money raised by subscription do pay the sum of thirty nine pounds five shillings and ten pence, being the Fees to the Speaker and other officers in the House of Commons for twice reading the Company’s bill in that House.”

Quarterage.
1709.

The quarterage fines were this year looked up. Oswald Strong paid the sum of £1 10s. 6d., being over fifteen years in arrear.

Freemasonry.
1717.
The Great
Revival.

This year is remarkable as being the year of the foundation of the first Grand Lodge of Freemasons. The speculative element had finally separated itself from the Masons Company at the commencement of the century. From this time the old traditions of the ancient guild of Free and Accepted Masons, which we have traced from the earliest time, became absorbed in the formation of an universal society of non-operative masons, termed speculative or free masons.

The history of this revival of speculative masonry and its sudden rise in popularity is given in great detail by Dr. James Anderson, who, at the request of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons, compiled the *History and Constitutions of Free and Accepted Masons* in the year 1723. An extended edition was published in 1738,² and from this latter work the following extracts are taken :—

¹ As may be expected, the Bill did not pass into law.

² Published in facsimile by the Lodge, *Quat. Coronati. Reprints* vol. vii.

[1717] page 109.

"King GEORGE I. enter'd *London* most magnificently on 20 *Sept.* 1714. and after the Rebellion was over A.D. 1716. the few *Lodges* at *London* finding themselves neglected by Sir *Christopher Wren*, thought fit to cement under a *Grand Master* as the Center of Union and Harmony, viz. the *Lodges* that met,

1. At the *Goose* and *Gridiron* Ale-house in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*.
2. At the *Crown* Ale-house in *Parker's-Lane* near *Drury-Lane*.
3. At the *Apple-Tree* Tavern in *Charles-Street*, *Covent Garden*.
4. At the *Rummer* and *Grapes* Tavern in *Channel-Row*, *Westminster*.

They and some old Brothers met at the said *Apple-Tree*, and having put into the Chair the *Oldest Master* *Mafon* (now the *Master* of a *Lodge*), they constituted themselves a GRAND LODGE pro Tempore in *Due Form*," etc., etc.

We read further that—

"On *St John Baptists* Day, in the 3d Year of King GEORGE I. A.D. 1717. the ASSEMBLY and *Feast* of the *Free and accepted Mafons* was held at the forefaid *Goose and Gridiron* Ale-house," etc.

Mr. Antony Sayer, gentleman, was elected grand master of masons.

[1718] "ASSEMBLY and *Feast* at the said Place 24 *June* 1718."

At this meeting Mr. Thomas Morrice¹ (a member of the Worshipful Company of Masons) was elected one of the grand wardens. The grand master, George Payne, Esq., on this occasion, "defired any Brethren to bring to the Grand Lodge any old *Writings* and *Records* concerning *Mafons* and *Mafonry* in order to fhew the *Ufages* of antient times: and this year several old copies of the *Gothic Constitutions* were produced and collated."

These Gothic Constitutions were some of the MS. charges, one of which was at that date in the possession of the Masons Company.

In 1720 Dr. Anderson says [page 111]:—

"This Year, at some *private* Lodges, several very valuable *Manuscripts*

¹ Thomas Morris, sen., signs as master of the first Lodge (now the Lodge of Antiquity) in the list given by Anderson at the end of the edition of the Book of Constitutions printed in 1723.

(for they had nothing yet in Print) concerning the Fraternity, their Lodges, Regulations, Charges, Secrets, and Usages (particularly one writ by Mr. *Nicholas Stone* the Warden of *Inigo Jones*) were too haftily burnt by some scrupulous Brothers, that those Papers might not fall into strange Hands."

The Book of
Constitutions.
1721.

John, Duke of Montague, grand master of the Free and Accepted Masons. At a meeting of the Grand Lodge held 29th September, 1721, at the King's Arms, St. Paul's Church-yard,

"His Grace's *Worship* and the *Lodge* finding Fault with all the Copies of the *old Gothic Constitutions*,¹ ordered Brother *James Anderson* A.M. to digest the same in a new and better Method."

At a meeting of the Grand Lodge on December 27th, 1721.

"Montague *Grand Master*, at the Desire of the *Lodge*, appointed 14 learned Brothers to examine Brother *Anderson's* Manuscript, and to make Report. This communication [or meeting] was made very entertaining by the Lectures of some *old Masters*."

From this it is evident that certain of the elder members present related the customs, and perhaps some of the ritual, that were used at Masons' Hall Lodge and others at the close of the preceding century. Possibly some of those present *might* even have seen Ashmole at the historic meeting in 1682.

1722. At a meeting of the Grand Lodge at the Fountain in the Strand, March 25th, 1722,—

"The said *committe* of 14 reported that they had perused Brother *Anderson's* Manuscript, viz. the *History, Charges, Regulations, and Master's Song*, and after some Amendments had approv'd of it: Upon which the *Lodge* decid'd the *Grand Master* to order it to be printed."²

1722²/₃. Grand Lodge met at the King's Arms, St. Paul's Churchyard, January 17th. At this meeting—

¹ *I.e.* the MS. rolls used in lodges.

² An unauthorised edition of a copy of the old charges was printed and sold by J. Roberts, in Warwick Lane, MDCCXXII. The first *authorised* edition of the *Constitutions* was printed by William Hunter for John Senex and John Hooke, London, 1723.

"G. Warden *Anderson* produced the *new* Book of *Constitutions* now in Print, which was again approv'd, with the Addition of the *antient* Manner of *Constituting a Lodge*.

"Now *Masonry* flourish'd in Harmony Reputation and Numbers; many Noblemen and Gentlemen of the first Rank desir'd to be admitted into the *Fraternity*, besides other Learned Men, Merchants, Clergymen and Tradesmen, who found a *Lodge* to be a safe and pleasant Relaxation from Intense Study or The Hurry of Buusiness, without Politicks or Party."

The Masons
Company. In 1723 a new edition of Anderson's *Constitutions* appeared, on the last page of which occurs the following paragraph :—

"To fill up this Page, it is thought not amiss to insert here a Paragraph from an old Record of *Masons* viz. The *Company of Masons*, being otherwise termed FREE MASONS, of auncient Staunding and good Reckonning, by means of affable and kind Meetings diverse Tymes, and as a *loving Brotherhood* shewld use to doe, did frequent this *mutual Assembly* in the Tyme of King HENRY V. the 12th Year of his most gracious *Reign*. And the said Record describing a *Coat of Arms*, much the same with *That* of The LONDON COMPANY of *Freemen* Masons, it is generally believ'd that the said *Company* is descended of the ancient *Fraternity*; and that in former times no Man was made *Free* of that *Company* until he was install'd in some *Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons*, as a necessary Qualification. But that laudable Practice seems to have been long in Diffuetude," etc., etc.

The first portion of the above is copied from Stow's *Survey of London*, 1733 edition, with the addition of what is stated to be the continuation of the *same record*.

Whence the latter part was obtained is not clear, but it seems certain that Anderson was under the impression that in early times all the members of the Masons Company were obliged to be speculative as well as operative masons. This, I think, is clearly an error, although we know very little of the internal policy of the Company previous to 1620. Yet from various expressions used in the book of accounts concerning what was termed "Ingresse Money of Freemen," etc.,¹ we gather that when any person wished to take up

¹ See *ante* under 1620, 1631, and 1650, etc., pages 140, 141, 155, 170, etc.

the freedom of the Company he must either have served his apprenticeship; claimed by patrimony, or, if an operative mason, by redemption alone; but if in no way connected with the trade, he was first required to *accept masonry*, whatever that was. This may have been commonly known, and thus have given rise to the above tradition.

Nevertheless this idea that the Masons Company was descended from a society of free and accepted masons appears curiously on one of the title-pages of an English edition of the celebrated work on architecture by Sebastian le Clerc, published in 1723-1724, under the following title: "*A Treatise on Architecture, Engraven in Two Hundred Copper Plates by John Sturt. Translated by M. Chambers. London, 1724.*"

It is interesting to notice that the first of the four dedication plates (of which a facsimile is annexed), to the companies connected with the building trades of London, contains the arms and (incorrect though usual) blazon of the Masons Company of London. The wording of the dedication seems to indicate either that its writer was perfectly aware that an intimate connection had existed between the Masons Company and the Society of Freemasons, which some suggestion appears to be thrown out by Stow in 1633, or else he had seen the paragraph concerning the Masons Company in the current edition of Anderson's *Constitutions*, perhaps just then issued.

From the foregoing extracts we are enabled to deduce the following facts:—

That in the year 1717 four lodges, composed more or less of speculative masons,¹ who probably owed their origin to the Masons' Hall Lodge, met to cement themselves more firmly together. This meeting eventually was the nucleus of modern Freemasonry, and

¹ Pritchard in his *Vindication*, 1730, p. 21, has the following suggestive sentence: "For some Operative Masons (but according to the polite Way of Expression, Accepted Masons) made a visitation from the first and oldest constituted Lodge, according to the Lodge Book in London," etc.

Arms Blazoned
Azure on a Chev-
ron Argent, a
Pair of Compa-



less somewhat
extended of the
first. Crest a Cal-
tle of y^e second.

T O
The MASTER and WARDENS
OF

*The Worshipful Comp^y of
Masons London*
May it Please Your Worships

*This Company was Incorporated in Anno 1410.
Having been call'd the Free Maçons, a Fraternity of great
Antiquity being Honoured by Several KINGS & very many
of y^e Nobility & Gentry being of their Society. And are a body of
Workmen which have advanced their Art to such a height, that
they out do all their Brethren in Europe both in Number,
& Art to the Glory of their Nation.*

*This Treatise of Architecture by the most Correct Designer
& Architect Sebastian le Clerc, that has yet Appear'd in the
World; whose Rules and Proportions well follow'd may
advance it yet farther; is most humbly Dedicated by
Your Worships,*

Obedient Servant

John Sturt.

within a very few years became a body consisting of numerous lodges in London and the country generally.

That Freemasonry soon became the fashion among the higher class of citizens is attested by the following extract from *The Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer* for March 28th, 1724¹:—

“There was a great Lodge of the Ancient Society of the Free Masons held last week at the Horn Tavern in Palace Yard: at which were present the Earl of Dalkeith, their Grand Master, The Deputy Grand Master, The Duke of Richmond, and several other persons of quality, at which time the Lord Carmichael, Col. Carpenter, Sir Thomas Prendergast, Col. Paget, and Col. Saunderson, were accepted Free Masons, and went home in their Leather Aprons and Gloves.”

It is also evident that at this date the members of the newly constituted society were perfectly aware that their origin was derived from the old operative gild of masons, which, as we have seen, existed in England at the close of the fourteenth century.

In consequence of the growing necessity for non-political clubs, the masonic brotherhood opened up new ground for mutual good fellowship without either the necessity of drinking to the king “over the water” or praising the efficacy of “imported oranges.”

As a result of how the introduction of new blood into the old constitution increased the popularity of the fraternity, we find that shortly after this date lodges were founded in all parts of the country, as well as on the continent of Europe and the American colonies, thus paving the way for its present grand position, numbering at this moment over 15,000 lodges and some 2,000,000 of craftsmen, with an income estimated² at about £5,000,000 per annum, a very large amount of which is dispensed in charity.

¹ Rylands and Gould have searched many files of old newspapers at the British Museum with much success.—*Vide* Gould's *Hist. of Freemasonry*, vols. ii. and iii.

² By Mr. W. J. Hugan.

Having thus briefly sketched the rise of modern Freemasonry,¹ I now leave it, as, having severed its connection with the Masons Company, it no longer concerns this history.

Returning therefore, to the year 1717, the following extracts continue the chronicle:—

The Chronicle
continued.
1717.

“The Company purchased three tenements in the parish of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London.”

Oct. 3rd.

“This day Samuel Holland was admitted into the Company by patrimony, and being a Dissenter, commonly called a Quaker, he took his solemn affirmation.”

Standard
Bearers.
1718.

“It is ordered as a rule for the future that the Master shall nominate two persons, the Wardens one person, and the three assistants one person each, to be standard bearers on Lord Mayor's day.

Stewards.

“Ordered that all Members of this Company who have given their notes for payment of their Stewards fines, be invited to dine with the Company and to bring their friends and their money with them.”

The accounts show the following item this year :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| Paid for Cockades for the Musicians | 0 | 6 | 6 |

1719.
June 26th.

“Ordered that the Carpenter of this Company do make a covering for the Company's stand.

“Ordered that the Clerk do prepare a draft of the new Bye Laws for this Company.”

In the accounts the following is for the first time :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|---|----|----|
| Paid for Coffee and Tea for the Hall | 0 | 1 | 5 |

The Charter.
1719.
Aug. 21st.

“Ordered that a case be stated upon the Charter and Act of Common Council and the opinion of Counsel

¹ For a detailed account, see Gould's *Hist.*, vol. ii.

to be taken, whether all Masons by trade within the limits of the Charter are not obliged to become members of the Company, or if not, whether they are not nevertheless liable to the search and quarterage of the Company."

Sept. 25th. "Mr. Downes being desired to attend the committee about the prosecution of Henry Taylor at the next quarter sessions for using the trade of a Mason contrary to the Act of Parliament 5. Elizth, several witnesses for the Company gave their evidence. It is ordered that he be prosecuted.

"A case stated upon the Charter and Act of Common Council and two queries upon it, was read and approved and the opinion of Mr. Sergeant Pengelly is ordered to be taken thereupon and laid before the next Court.

"Ordered that he have a fee of 5 guineas for his opinion."

Oct. 1st. *The Opinion of Mr. Pengelly.*

"*Question.* Whether the Company by virtue of their Charter and Act of Common Council can compel all such persons who exercise the trade of Masonry within the limits of their Charter (Free or not free of any other company of the City of London) to be admitted into the Freedom of the Masons Company. If they can, in what manner ought the Company to proceed?"

"I am of opinion that this Act of Common Council is not good in law, or to be maintained and that the Company by virtue of their charter and this Act of Common Council, can not compel any person who exercises the trade of a Mason within the limits of their charter to be admitted into the Freedom of their company, but if any person not being free of some company does exercise the trade within the City of London, such person may be prosecuted upon the general bye laws of the City, which exclude all foreigners.

"*Question.* Whether such persons who exercised the trade of Masonry within the limits of the said Charter (though they are not members of the Masons Company) are subject to the view search

and over sight of the Masons Company in things pertaining to the said trade.

“I think such persons who are not members of the Company, although they do exercise the trade of Masonry within the limits of the Charter, are not subject to the view or search of the company, unless they do voluntarily submit thereunto.

“THOMAS PENGELLY.”

A Patent
offered to the
Company.
Oct. 7th.

“Mr. Robinson attended this Court and acquainted them that he hath lately found out an invention for painting and glazing of fire stone coins in imitation of galley tyles and that he is now endeavoring to obtain a patent for the making thereof; but is willing to propose it to the Company that they may if they think fit become sharers therein.

“Ordered that a caveat be entered in the offices of Mr. Attorney and Mr. Solicitor General against the passing of the said patent till the Company be first heard, and that the clerk do as soon as may be, procure a copy thereof in order to be laid before the next court.”

“Mr. Robinson came before the Court again about his invention. The Company to be started with a capital of £25,000. in five hundred shares. The Court were of opinion that as a corporation they will not engage therein, but they will withdraw their caveat.”

Oct. 13th.

“A notice received from the Lord Mayor calling upon the Company not to bind any person as apprentice to any one without seeing their own copy of their respective freedoms of this city.”

June 14th.
1720.

“Election day dinner.

Bill of fare.

For the first course :

Four dishes of beans.

Four Hams, about 14 lbs. in each ham.

Three dishes of chickens, 5 in a dish.

For the second course :

Three dishes of fillet of veal, two of them stuffed.

Four dishes of green goose, two in a dish.

Three dishes of tarts.

They dined at the Crown Tavern behind the Royal Exchange at one o'clock."

Insurance.
Sept. 21st.

"It was ordered that the Company's Hall be insured on the account of this Company in the Hand in Hand Fire Office.

"The Hall was let this year for £50 per annum."

The following is a facsimile of a notice issued to all the members of the Court, concerning the days of meeting and the business to be transacted.

Ordered,

THAT a Court be holden on the First *Friday* in every *December, February, March, May, August, September, and November*, for the Binding of Apprentices, and other Business, besides the Quarterly Courts to be holden on the *Thursday* next after *Epiphany*, and on the *Thursday* next after every other Quarter-Day, the Election-Day to be the Fourteenth of *June*.

Nov. 7th.

"Ordered that Mr. Thomas Stainer a Member of this Court be summoned to shew cause why he should not be discharged from being an Assistant for the misdemeanour by him committed in affronting the Master, Wardens, and Company, at their public dinner on Lord Mayor's Day last.

"At the next court Mr. Thomas Stainer appeared and was fined 6s. 8d. for the above offence, having apologized."

1720.
Dec. 6th.

"Mr. Downes, the Solicitor for the Company, acquainted the Court that the indictment against Henry Taylor

had been tried at the Kings Bench Bar, Westminster, and that the said Henry Taylor had been acquitted, the consideration thereof has been deferred till another Court.

"The Master and Kidwell are desired to state a case and take the opinion of Counsel upon the Charter, whether they cannot bring to a new trial the indictment against the said Henry Taylor.

"Mr. Downes bill of charges came to £45. 10."

An Inventory
taken.
June 14th,
1722.

An inventory ordered to be taken of the Company's goods. In this inventory the following two books in MS. are mentioned.

"A Book bound in Vellum being the Constitutions of this Company granted in the Mayoralty of John Brown the 21st year of the reign of King Edward the 4th, the 15th day of Oct. 1481; also:

*"A Book wrote on parchment and bound or sticht in parchment containing an account of the Antiquity Rise and Progress of the Art and Mistery of Masonry."*¹

¹ Whilst these sheets were passing through the press, my attention was called by Mr. G. W. Speth to two copies of the *Old Charges* in the possession of the Rev. J. E. A. Fenwick, Cheltenham, known as the *Phillipps 1 and 2 MSS.* (Nos. 6 and 7 on my list). They are both of the middle, or perhaps late, 17th century, written on vellum in the engrossing hand of that period, and both in *book form*, stitched in parchment covers. At first sight there is nothing extraordinary in this description, but it is a curious fact nevertheless, that of all the copies of the *Constitutions* known, only these two answer to the description of the *Masons Company MS.*, in being "written on parchment, stitched or bound in parchment." They are practically identical as regards the text, the only difference being in the spelling of some of the words. Where one MS. has blanks left because the scribe could not decipher his original, the same blanks are found in the other. No. 1 has an endorsement or title on the front cover, stating that it was made for "Mr. Richard Ban..." The Ban is quite plain, the next letter has been read as "o," and the marks following as an abbreviation, so the whole word has hitherto been read as "Banour." Mr. Speth and Mr. Price examined this MS. recently, and Mr. Price, who has been facsimileing such documents all his life, at once declared the word was "Banckes." The cover is really a palimpsest, and traces of the original writing still remain, some of which have interfered with the correct reading of this word. The letter after Ban has thus been given the appearance of "o" instead of "c," which it really is. The flourish, which has been read as an abbreviation mark, is undoubtedly part of a "k," which can be

This is evidently the copy of the old Charges or Constitutions of the Accepted Masons mentioned in the previous inventories, and the one referred to in the article published in the *Edinburgh Review*, 1839, attributed to Sir Francis Palgrave. (See Introduction, pp. 13, 14.)

The original grant of arms is also mentioned, but neither the Charter of Charles II. nor the list of the Accepted Masons, which was enclosed in a frame with a lock and key. No doubt the "accepted" members had joined one or other of the numerous lodges

readily traced throughout, and following the "k" are either "es" or "s" only, but the writing impinges on the edge of the book, and has been cramped in consequence. The word is either "Banckes" or "Bancks." (Mr. Speth was struck by the name of Bancks occurring in one of the proof-sheets of this book, and asked me to search whether a Richard Bancks was ever a member of the Company.) There was a Mr. Richard Bancks who was master in 1647, and the books of the Company show that a Mr. Richard Bancks (probably his son) was elected on to the court of assistants in 1677.

On receipt of a portion of the facsimile of the *Phillips MS.*, made by Mr. Price, I at once searched the books of the Company, in order to trace if possible a similar style of calligraphy.

Curiously enough, the only clerk whose handwriting resembled the MS. was a Mr. Hamond, who held that office in 1677-1678, and on comparing the MS. with certain entries made by Mr. Hamond in the Company's books, a very remarkable similarity was at once evident. From marked peculiarities in the formation of the letters "e" and "a," both in the Company's books and the *Phillips MS.*, I can only conclude that the writer was one and the same person.

Further, Mr. Palgrave described the *Masons Company MS.* as containing "113 annals," although how he obtained this information is not clear, as he did not see the original. Mr. Speth has had no opportunity since of inspecting the original "*Phillips No. 1 or 2*," but he tells me that a transcript of No. 1 in his possession shows that there are 115 sentences beginning with a rubricated letter or word.

At the same time it must not be overlooked that in the *Antiquity* and *Colonel Clarke MSS.* we find elaborate headings, containing the arms of the Masons Company and the City of London, which would of itself induce the belief that the one or the other related to the Company's missing document mentioned so early as 1665, probably even then an *old* copy of a previous version. In this case the *Phillips MS.* might have been a transcript from a totally different source made by the clerk of the Company for and at the request of Mr. Richard Banckes.

Nevertheless, taking all these matters into consideration, it looks very much as if in the *Phillips MS. No. 1* we had a copy of the long lost Masons Company version.

of Freemasons then working in London, which were formed after the revival of 1717. The old Lodge at Masons' Hall had ceased to exist under the new regulations.

Lord Mayor's Day, 1722. By the Court book we find that careful preparations were made for the annual feast on Lord Mayor's Day.

It was ordered that the keeper of the cloth which covered the stand should be sent for to put up the same.

That the Beadle take care to provide pipes, tobacco, and staves, and bowls.

Insurance. At the same Court the Hall was ordered to be insured for the sum of £1,000 in the Hand in Hand Fire Office, and that the houses on either side of the Hall be insured in the same office for £300.

The premium paid for the insurance was £4 8s. 8d.

Lord Mayor's Day, 1722.

Breakfast.

- 2 small sirloins of Beef.
- 3 doz. of Lisbon Wine for the stand.

Dinner.¹

- 9 dishes of fowls, three in a dish.
- 2 roasted and one boyled with oyster sauce.
- 3 Yorkshire Hams.
- 6 Geese, two in a dish.
- 3 Turkeys.
- 3 Chines.
- 3 dishes of Tongues and Udders.
- 6 dishes of Tarts.

Wine.

- 12 Gallons of Red Port.
 - 4 Gallons of White Port.
-

¹ The account-books show the following prices of the dishes :—3 hams, £1 8s. ; 24 fowls, 6 geese, and 3 turkeys, £4 10s. ; 6 dishes of mince pies, £2 5s. For wine and dressing the dinner, £19 10s. The Beadle found 12 staves, 36 cups, 2 lbs. tobacco, 2 yards of match, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a gross of pipes.

Six Members chosen for Ushers ; a boiled leg of Mutton and three fowles roasted to be provided for their dinner.

Six Members chosen standard bearers.

John Beaver appointed to wait on the Master ; Mr. Daniel Wright appointed musician ; Mr. Paramore to provide ribbons and cockades as usual.

Ordered Mr. Worrel the carpenter do put up the Company's stand in the usual place.

1723.
Feb. 7th.

Ordered that the clerk do make out a list of such members who have served the office of Steward of this company and are not yet on the Livery in order to call them on to the clothing.

Parliamen-
tary Return
Ordered,
1724.

An order was this year received from the Houses of Parliament that the Company do make out a return of the particulars, grants, and constitutions, by which they were made Livery Companies, together with the number of their Livery.

The records were ordered to be looked up, and a return was sent by the clerk ¹ (Miles Mann).

1725.

It was ordered this year that the Master Wardens and Stewards only be allowed to bring guests to the stand on Lord Mayor's Day to view the procession, and at the dinner the Master Wardens and Court to sit at one table, the Stewards by themselves, and the rest of the company at a third table.

1727.

In 1727 it was agreed to add a trumpet to the music on Lord Mayor's Day.

The Banner.
1728.

This year a new standard and colours were ordered to be painted.

The Company having some money in hand, invested £210 in South Sea bonds of £100, bought at £105 ; they paid 4 per cent.

¹ The clerk having searched the Company's closet, came upon the old book of the ancient Constitutions of the Company, granted the 15th October, 1481, wherein they are authorized to wear a clothing. The return sent to the House of Commons will be found on page 97 of this book, under date of 1481.

Music.
1732. The Music on Lord Mayor's Day was to consist of three hautboys, one bassoon, and two French horns. It was ordered that no dancing was to take place after the dinner on Lord Mayor's Day.

1738. The bill for ribbons this year for Lord Mayor's Day came to £5 10s.

The Clerk.
June 14th. Mr. Edward Gross, attorney, was elected clerk to the Company in place of Miles Mann.

Thanks were given at the Court to Miles Mann for his long and good services, and he was requested to do the Company the honour of sitting for his portrait, to be hung up in the Hall.

1738.
Sept. 1st. Ordered that a gown be provided for Edward Gross, Clerk of the Company.

1739.
Oct. 30th. Ale and small beer first mentioned as part of the Lord Mayor's Day feast.

1735-1741. A number of Dutch masons admitted.

1746. The Company received the sum of £200 by the will of Mrs. Cumins.

1747.
May 1st. It is this day agreed that the wives of the gentlemen belonging to this Court be invited to dinner the 14th day of June next, being election day.

1747.
October. The Master and Wardens summoned to attend a committee of the Mercers Company relating to the letting of the joint property.

1748.
March. A picture of King Henry IV. was received by the Court, with the following anonymous letter :—

GENTLEMEN,

In Stow's account of London, I find that King Henry IV. was somewhat related to you by affections or service tho Mr. Stow does not say which, if therefore you'll give this old painting a place in your Hall it is at the Worshipful Company's service. The Bearer has orders to take nothing except a receipt, hereafter such as the Company shall think fit, as from an unknown person which he shall, when you order, call for the use of gentlemen,

Your most humble servant,

St. Bartholomews Day. 1748.

A. B.

The reference made by Stow has already been mentioned.

Nothing further was heard concerning this picture, and there is no mention made of it in subsequent inventories ; all trace of it has long since disappeared.

^{1750.}
^{March 1.} An inventory was this day ordered to be taken of the goods belonging to the Company, and a committee appointed to make an abstract of the papers in the Company's chest.

This inventory does not appear in the books ; it may, therefore, only have been written on a few single sheets, and then subsequently destroyed.

The following is a curious instance of women taking female apprentices :—

^{March 1.} This day Susanna Twiss dau. of John Twiss late of Shrewsbury in the county of Salop Draper deceased, doth put herself apprentice to Frances Holt Widdow of Richard Holt late citizen and mason —Consideration Money £30.

^{Ladies' Dinner.}
^{June 14.} This day the wives of the members of the court were invited to dine in the hall with the assistants, it being election day.

This year the Company leased from Christ's Hospital a portion of adjoining ground in order to make a better approach to the hall.

Lord Mayor's Day, 1754.

The following particulars are given concerning this annual feast :—

Breakfast.

- 2 Sirloins of Beef.
- 2 Buttocks of Beef.
- 1 doz. of Wine.

At the Stand.

- 9 gallons of red port.
- 3 gallons of white port.
- 1 barrel of Beer.
- Tobacco, Pipes, and Match.
- The music, ribbons, and cockades as usual.

Dinner.

- 6 dishes of Fowles with bacon and oysters (1 boiled in each dish).
- 1 ham for the high Table.
- 3 dishes of Ducks (2 in each dish).
- 3 turkeys roasted.
- 3 chines roasted.
- 3 dishes of tongues and udders.
- 3 marrow puddings.
- 3 dishes of mince pies.
- 9 dishes of fruit.

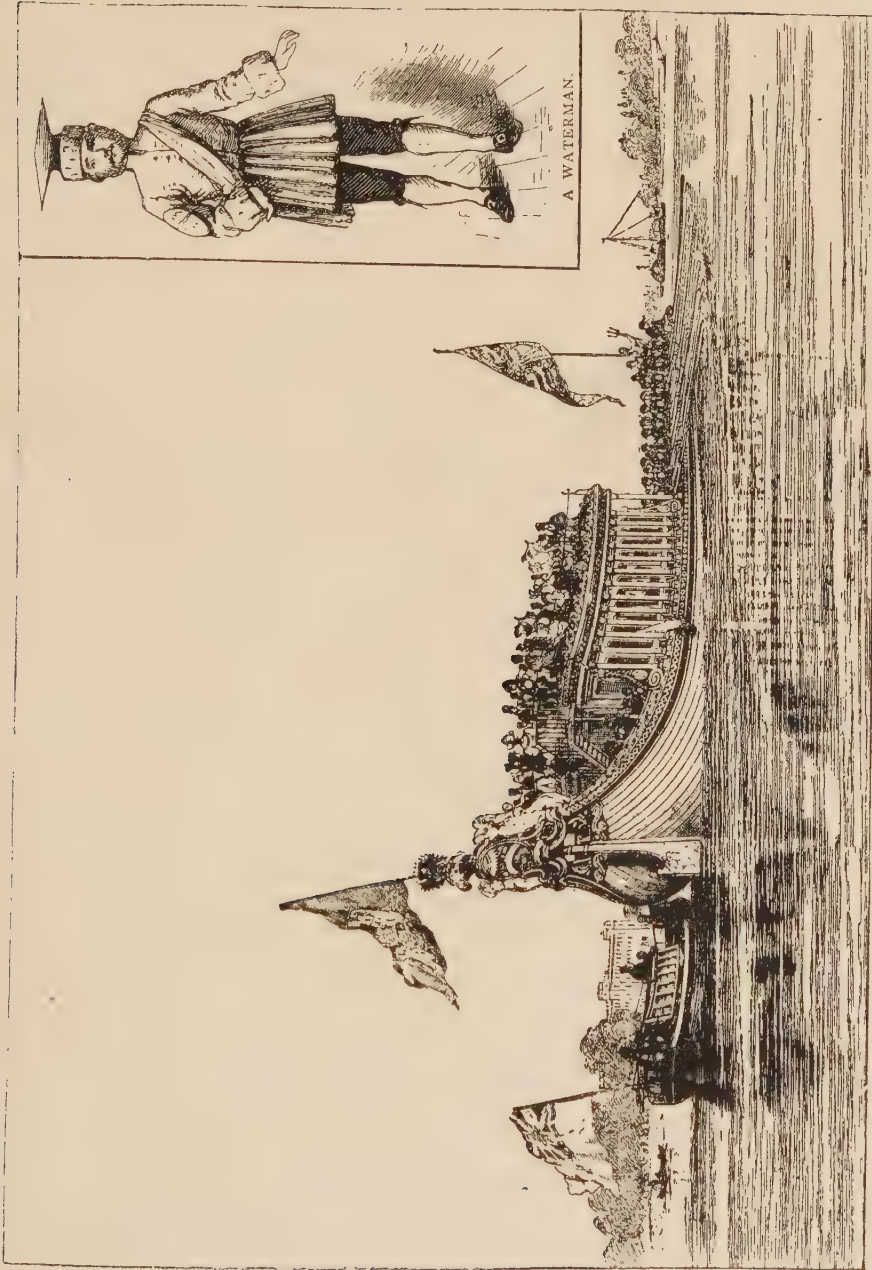
Wine.

- 14 gallons of red wine.
- 3 gallons of mountain wine.
- 2 gallons of Lisbon.
- 1½ gallons of Rum.
- 4 pounds of sugar.

1756.
Exchange of
Freemen. It was frequently the custom of the companies to exchange members with one another when such members worked at the trade of the other. Instances of this have already been given. We have the following entry relative to the above, only in this case there was no member to exchange; consequently the Court refused the application.

March 5,
1756. This day William Simmonds, who keeps the Crown Tavern in Smithfield, and who is a freeman of this Company, attended and acquainted the Court that on account of his keeping the said tavern the Vintners Company had summoned him to take up the freedom of that Company. Therefore the said William Simmonds desired the favour that he may be translated from this Company to the Vintners; whereupon, after fully debating on the affair, this Court resolved to hold the said William Simmonds to this Company, and are determined not to part with him.

The Stand.
1762.
Oct. 9. The stand belonging to this Company being "broke to pieces by the great crowd last Lord Mayor's Day and so much damaged as to render it incapable of being put up again, the



BARGE OF A CITY COMPANY.

Court therefore do not intend to go out in procession next Lord Mayor's Day."

The Company, after the above accident to their stand, never again resumed the old custom of spending a day in the open street.

A New
Bye-law.
1764.

At a Court held the 28th day of June, it was ordered—

"That the master and wardens do for the future wear the gowns while the Court is sitting under the penalty fixt for that purpose, and it is recommended by the Court that all the members of the Court stand up while any oath is administring."

Richmond.
1767.

The worshipful Company of Grocers having kindly lent their barge to this Company, the Court of Assistants, with "their Ladies," made an excursion to Richmond on July 23rd, for the purpose of dining there.

They left the Steel Yard at 9 o'clock, called at Westminster Bridge for the rest of the company, and then proceeded to Richmond.

On board two French horns discoursed sweet music, and refreshments in the form of two tongues, with French rolls and butter, were provided.

On arriving at Richmond the company repaired to the Castle Hotel for dinner.

The menu was as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| 3 dishes of Fish | |
| 1 Ham. | 6 Chickens. |
| Beans. | Peas. |
| 2 haunches of Venison. | |
| Fruit, etc. | |

The expenses, which were defrayed by the members who were present, appear to have been :—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| For the Barge | 10 | 8 | 0 |
| Venison | 4 | 17 | 0 |
| Bill at the Castle | 12 | 6 | 6 |
| Fish | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| Tongues, etc., on board | 2 | 19 | 10 |
| Music | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | 35 | 19 | 10 |
| | <hr/> | | |

The whole party consisted of twenty-eight persons.

John Strong.
1768.
July 5. This day John Strong was elected one of the pensioners of the Company. It was very likely he was a descendant of the Strong family that originally came from Taynton in Oxfordshire, in 1666.

1772. Certain masons who were working in London this year were found not to be free of the Company. It was agreed by the Court that notices should be sent to each of them requiring them to take up the freedom under a forfeit of £10.

1773.
June 14. This day John Strong was elected Beadle of this Company.

The Sheriff.
1782.
Sept. 28. This year was an important one for the Company, as Mr. Robert Taylor,¹ a freeman of the Company, had been elected one of the Sheriffs of London for the year ensuing.

Accordingly, on September 28th, the Masons Company attended Mr. Taylor at Drapers' Hall to meet the other Sheriff, Mr. Benjamin Cole, Citizen and Draper, at 10 a.m., where they were entertained to breakfast. At 12 o'clock a procession was formed, and the two Sheriffs, with their respective Companies, two and two, proceeded to the Guildhall, where the Lord Mayor and aldermen waited for them. After the oaths of office, allegiance, and supremacy had been administered to them by the Town Clerk, the whole company pre-

¹ Sir Robert Taylor, an architect of eminence, founder of the Taylor Institute at Oxford.

sent repaired to St. Lawrence's Church to hear the sermon, after which they returned to Guildhall to elect a Lord Mayor. This being done, the Drapers and Masons returned to Drapers' Hall, where a sumptuous repast awaited them.

1783.
Sept. 30th. On the Monday following, the Masons and Drapers attended the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs by water to Westminster, where they were received by one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer.

After having received His Majesty's approval from the learned Baron the following quaint ceremony was duly observed :—

“The Common Cryer of the Court made the following proclamation : ‘Oyez ! Oyez ! Oyez ! Tenants and occupiers of a piece of waste land, called the Moors, in the county of Salop, come forth and do your service upon pain and peril that shall fall thereon.’

“The senior Alderman below the chair took two sticks from a bundle lying before him on the table, one of which he cut with a hatchet, and the other with a bill-hook.

“The Cryer of the Court then made a second proclamation as follows : ‘Oyez ! Oyez ! Oyez ! Tenants and occupiers of a certain tenement, called the Forge, in the parish of St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, come forth and do your service.’

“The same Alderman counted some horseshoes lying before him, and was questioned by the king's Remembrancer thus :—

“Remembrancer :—*How many have you ?*

“Alderman :—*Six shoes.*

Then the Alderman counted the nails.

“Remembrancer :—*How many have you ?*

“Alderman :—*Sixty one.*

“Remembrancer :—*That is a good number.*

“This ancient ceremony finished, the Sheriffs invited the Baron of the Exchequer to dine at the Drapers Hall that day, and withdrew.

“The two Companys then returned by water to Blackfriars

Bridge, from whence they walked in procession to the Drapers' Hall, and were entertained by that Company in honour of the occasion."

The Mace.

1791.

Sept. 29. This day the Company received a handsome present from the Father of the Company, Mr. George Mercer, in



SILVER HEAD OF THE COMPANY'S MACE OR BEADLE'S STAFF

[From a drawing made by Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A.]

the shape of a Beadle's staff, with a silver head, containing the arms of the Company.

"The Court having thanked Mr. Mercer for his handsome present, ordered the clerk to have the following inscription engraved on the head, viz. :—

"The Gift of George Mercer, Esqre., Father of the Worshipful Company of Masons, Sep. 29. 1791."

The elaborate head of this staff measures eighteen inches by six and a half, and weighs forty-eight ounces, eleven dwts. The coat of arms is curiously represented—azure on a chevron engrailed argent between three castles, a pair of compasses extended. Evidently the Company had recourse either to the original grant of arms, or else the MS. containing the city gilds' armorial bearings, now in the British Museum. For many years previously they used a plain chevron and three *towers*, similar to the woodcut in Stow's *Survey*. Why the field was in this instance given blue instead of black, and the castles a prison-like aspect in place of the old feudal type, I cannot imagine, unless it was a want of care on the part of the designer or the person responsible for giving the necessary particulars. The accompanying block of this mace is from a sketch made by my friend Mr. W. H. Rylands, F.S.A.

The Stand.

1805.

March 28.

This day the master reported that the Company's stand had been sold for seven guineas, which was directed to be paid into the hands of the Renter Warden.

Wellington.

1809-1810.

Napoleon at this time was at the height of his power, his one wish being to crush the English troops under Wellesley in Portugal. At Talavera Wellesley completely defeated the French army under Marshal Victor, and was rewarded with the title of Viscount Wellington.

Although victorious, Wellington lost many of his men, who were taken prisoners during this campaign and hurried off to France.

We find the Masons Company assisting in raising a fund for

their relief early in 1811, as shown by the following entry in the Court book for that year :—

1811.
March 28. This day a letter from the secretary to the Committee at Lloyd's Coffee House to the Master of the Company was read soliciting the aid of the Company towards the subscription for the relief of the British prisoners in France, when the Court ordered that the sum of twenty pounds should be subscribed out of the funds of the Company.

Charities.
1820.
Nov. 9. At a Court held this day at the Masons' Hall, a letter from Mr. Carlyle, secretary to the Commissioners appointed for inquiry into the different charities by virtue of an Act of Parliament made for that purpose, was read, concerning what property the Company held in trust and the amount thereof. The clerk was requested to search the documents in the Company's chest, and further to inquire at Doctors' Commons for the will of Mr. Joshua Marshall.

On a search being made at Doctors' Commons, the will of Joshua Marshall was not to be found, and the extract from the Company's books was all the evidence that was to be obtained.

The Freedom. The old question of the legality of masons working at the trade without being free of the Company was again to the front.

1822.
Oct. 4. At a Court held this day, a member of the Company proposed "That the Company should take up the question as to whether they could not compel all persons practising the Art or Trade of Masons within the city to take up their freedom in this Company."

Accordingly the clerk was directed to draw up a petition to the Court of Common Council on behalf of the master and wardens of the Company.

After some delay the clerk was at length able to lay the following facts before the Court.

1822.
Nov. 9. "This day the clerk reported the proceedings that had been taken before the Court of Common Council upon the

petition of the Court for a bye-law to enable them to compel persons exercising the trade of a mason within the city of London, not being freemen of the Masons Company, to take up their freedom therein.

"The petition had been referred by the Court of Common Council on the 11th day of July last to the committee for general purposes.

"That such committee met the 4th of September last, when the petition was heard, and the several allegations stated in it were fully proved, and the chairman of such committee stated that they should report their opinion on the petition to the Court of Common Council favourably of it, and that it ought to be complied with, the same privileges having been granted to several other companies; but that upon the report of the committee being made to the Court of Common Council in October last the petition was ordered to lie on the table."

So ended the last attempt made by the Company to enforce the orders contained in their Charter.

1825.
London
Bridge
rebuilt.

After six centuries of gradual municipal improvements, the old stone bridge of London, so dear to the Masons Company as having in a measure conduced to the consolidation of the London Gild,¹ was this year commenced to be rebuilt, the first stone of the new bridge being laid June 15th, 1825, in a coffer-dam forty-five feet below high water mark.

The remains of the old bridge, which dated from 1176, continued to brave the despoiler's hand until 1832, when it finally disappeared, the last item of importance connected with it being the discovery under the old chapel, situated on the tenth or great pier, of the bones of its old builder, Peter of Colechurch.

This was the fifth bridge,² and at its fall the old English ballad,

"London Bridge is broken down,"

might once again have been sung with some degree of certainty.

¹ See *ante*, page 54.

² The first bridge on record was that erected by the monks of St. Mary at Bank-

1832.
The Reform
Bill.

The Reform Bill (2 William IV. c. 45) preserves the franchises of the liverymen, with the limitation that, in order to vote as such, it is necessary to have taken up the freedom of the city prior to 1st March, 1831, or to have obtained it subsequently by servitude or patrimony through a person qualified in one of those ways, and also to have been resident within seven miles of the Mansion House for the six months preceding registration.¹ Previous to this the liverymen of the Common Hall constituted the electors.

The Masons Company received from Lord Melbourne, Secretary of State for the Home Department, a requisition for a return of the number of freemen and liverymen in consequence of the above Act. This return shows that at that date the number of the freemen was seventy-five, of these fifty were liverymen.

1834.
Parliamentary
Commission.

A Municipal Commission followed closely upon the Reform Bill, and the Masons Company received a notice from the Commissioners respecting the condition of the Company, and requiring answers to certain questions accompanying the notice. From the following entry in the books we gather that this was complied with :—

“January 9th, 1834.

“The clerk communicated to the court that application had been made to him by the commissioners appointed by the king for enquiring into the Corporations in the city of London for particulars relating to the Masons Company, its property and the distribution thereof; that he had complied with the commissioners' request and furnished the information required, with which Sir Francis Palgrave expressed himself satisfied.”

side, the second built A.D. 1016. This bridge was destroyed by a flood in 1091, and a third erected in 1097. This was burnt down in 1136, and a fourth built of wood in 1163, which was supplanted by the stone bridge of Peter of Colechurch, begun in 1176. See *Chronicles of London Bridge*, London, 1827.

¹ *Report of the City of London Companies Commission*, 1884, vol. i. p. 23.

No doubt a return was made of the contents of the Company's chest, and a list of the missing documents was given, as shortly after this date there appeared an article in the *Edinburgh Review*¹ (April, 1839) where mention is made of the old MS. *Constitutions* of the Accepted Masons, which at one time was an important item in the Company's inventory.

The report of the Municipal Commission appointed in 1834² contains the following account of the City Companies :—

“ They were, in their original conformation, not so much trading
“ societies as trade societies, instituted for the purpose of protecting
“ the consumer or the employer against the incompetency or fraud of
“ the dealer or artizan, and equally with the intent of securing a
“ maintenance to the workman trained to the art, according to the
“ notion of early times, by preventing his being undersold in a
“ labour market by an unlimited number of competitors. Further-
“ more, the Companies acted as domestic tribunals, adjudicating, or
“ rather arbitrating, between master and man, and settling disputes ;
“ thus diminishing hostile litigation, and promoting amity and good-
“ will.

“ They were also in the nature of benefit societies, from which
“ the workman, in return for the contributions which he had made
“ when in health and vigour to the common stock of the Gild, might
“ be relieved in sickness or when disabled by the infirmities of age.
“ This character speedily attracted donations for other charitable
“ purposes from benevolent persons who could not find any better
“ trustee than the ruling members of these communities ; and hence
“ arose the numerous charitable gifts and foundations now intrusted
“ to their care.

“ They also possessed the character of modern clubs. They

¹ See Introduction, page 13.

² Quoted in a note on page 57, vol. i., of the *City of London Livery Companies Commission of 1880*.

“were institutions in which members of the same class and their families assembled in social intercourse.”

1837.
Oct. 27.
The Stand. This day a letter received from the Town Clerk inviting the court and livery of the Masons Company to appear in their livery gowns, and to take up their ancient and accustomed standings in the City on the occasion of Her Majesty's intended visit to the Guildhall on the 9th of November next, was read. The Company were unable to accept the invitation.

1841.
April 1. This day was read a letter from the clerk of Christ's Hospital inviting the Company to contribute their armorial bearings for the window of the great hall of the hospital, the same to be executed in stained glass at an expense to the Company of £10 10s.

Whereupon the clerk was directed to signify the acquiescence of the Company.

The connection with Christ's Hospital arose from the fact that a certain portion of Masons' Alley leading to the hall, together with certain small buildings, had been rented by the Company of Masons from the governors of the hospital for very many years, in order to give a better approach to their hall.

1844.
Oct. 28. The Royal Exchange opened by the queen. The master of the Masons Company received an invitation to be present, in consequence of the old connection of the Company with that of the Mercers.¹

1859.
Oct. 6.
An Inventory taken. This day an inventory was ordered to be made of all the deeds, records, and muniments of the Company.

1860.
June 14. This day the master informed the court that, with the assistance of the clerk, he had proceeded carefully to examine the contents of the ancient oaken muniment chest belonging to this Company, and had collected with considerable labour the materials for an inventory of the records and muniments of this

¹ Sir Thomas Gresham, the founder, was a member of the Mercers Company.

Company, when an entry of the 14th June, 1722, was accidentally found in one of the Company's court books of a report of the examination of the Company's chest by a committee then appointed for that purpose, to which report is appended a lengthy and detailed inventory of the contents of the Company's chest at that time. Whereupon it was resolved that there be entered on this book two inventories; viz. an inventory of the muniments and effects reported to be in the chest in the year 1722, and which, etc., etc., are not now forthcoming, and an inventory of the muniments and effects now found in the same chest.

This inventory, if taken, does not appear to have been entered in the court books. It is evident that nearly all the old papers and documents had disappeared, including that important document, afterwards happily recovered, the original grant of arms, also the old manuscript copy of the *Constitutions* of the Accepted Masons, the *Constitutions* of the old Company of Masons, that were granted to the Company in the year 1481, by John Brown, Mayor, as well as countless documents relating to the Company before the charter of 1677. Besides the above loss, there was also missing one silver sack cup with two handles, and with the arms of the Company engraved on the bottom, also two wooden bowles (mazers) tipt with silver.

1864.
June 30. The Court of Assistants met this day for the last time in Masons' Hall to transact their business, as the lessee of the hall required the use of the court parlour for his commercial transactions; consequently the rent of the premises was at his request to be raised.

As a matter of fact, the hall had become of little use to the Company, inasmuch as after the business meetings, when the Company entertained the members, they had for many years been obliged to repair to some one of the noted city taverns for the entertainment. Consequently we find that when an offer to buy the hall arose the court very wisely decided to sell the property and

reinvest the money in some security that would certainly be to the advantage of the general body of the Company.

We cannot take leave of the old home of the Gild without some feelings of regret that such old associations should at last be broken. For nearly four hundred years it had seen generations of apprentices duly made liverymen, and in many cases finally occupying the master's chair.

Occasions such as these remind us forcibly of the lines—

“How weak the thoughts, and vain,
Of self-deluding men;
Men who, fixed to earth alone,
Think their houses shall endure,
Fondly think their land their own;
To their distant heirs secure.”

1865.
Oct. 5.
Sale of
the Hall.

This day the Court of Assistants agreed that the offer to purchase the freehold of the Company's hall be accepted, and that the clerk be instructed to prepare a contract to carry this resolution into effect.

The books, plate, and other items as set forth in the inventory of the Company's goods, were, after the sale of the hall, placed in the custody of the clerk of the Company.

The surveyor of the Company was requested to take charge of the armorial escutcheons and flags.

At the following court the surveyor reported that he had taken possession of the escutcheons,¹ but that the flags and certain articles of plate were not forthcoming.

The Holborn Viaduct and Blackfriars Bridge opened by her Majesty the Queen. The Master and Wardens of the Masons took part in the ceremony.

¹ These escutcheons were never afterwards claimed by the Company, and on the death of the surveyor (Mr. Gwilt) they passed into the keeping of a late member of the Court of Assistants, whose son now holds them.

1870.
Oct. 6th. The Master this day reported that the original grant of arms had been discovered, for sale by a Mr. West. The court authorised the Master to purchase the said grant from Mr. West, and to present it on behalf of the Company to the Trustees of the British Museum.¹ The grant is now known in the catalogue of Manuscripts as *Add. Chart* 19, 135.

1872.
Nov. 9th. This day the clerk was requested to prepare an inventory of the Company's property in his custody.

1873.
Jan. 9th. The inventory ordered at the last court was this day laid before the court, and ordered to be entered in the Company's books.

1873.
June 14th. This day it was resolved that it is desirable that some suitable badge or insignia should be provided for the Master of this Company.
The Master's
Badge.

1874.
June 26th. This day it was reported to the court that the arms of this Company had been emblazoned in the glass of the window on the staircase of the new library in the Guildhall of the City of London.

1875.
Nov. 9th. This day it was resolved that it be a direction to the Renter-Warden of the Company to examine the title deeds and other property of the Company once in every year, between the 25th of March and the 24th of June.

1877. An order was received this year from the House of Commons requiring a return of the oaths and declarations made by the officers of the City Companies.

1878.
The Ladies' Dinner. The old custom, dating from time immemorial, of inviting the wives of the Court of Assistants to the election dinner was this year revived by the Master. The last occasion noted in the minutes of the court was in 1767, when the ladies were taken to Richmond to dinner; and curiously enough it was to

¹ See *ante*, page 89.

Richmond this year that the ladies were again invited, and as on the previous occasion, to the Castle Hotel.¹

1878.
Nov. 9th.

This day the committee appointed for the purpose reported that they had agreed to purchase on behalf of the Company the freehold houses at Stoke Newington, subject to leases.

The Parlia-
mentary Com-
mission,
1880-1.

In these days of agitation and restless curiosity, old institutions and vested interests are the constant mark for the attack of the would-be popular agitator, and we cannot be surprised that the City Companies should at length receive some of that attention.

Wild tales of the enormous waste of money by the Livery Companies of London had long been a favourite topic with the so-called city reformers, and it was their constant cry that a thorough investigation of the property and private accounts of the Gilds should be made public.

Their wish was at last gratified by the appointment of a Royal Commission on July 29th, 1880, to inquire into the circumstances and date of foundation of the various Livery Companies in the City of London.

The members of the commission were the late Earl of Derby, the Duke of Bedford, Viscount Sherbrooke, Lord Coleridge; Sir R. A., now Lord Cross; Sir N., now Lord Rothschild; Sir S. H. Waterlow, Bart; Alderman Cotton, Mr. A. Pell, Mr. W. H. James, Mr. J. F. Firth, and Mr. Burt.

After a long and searching inquiry, none were more surprised at the result than the detractors and would-be reformers of these ancient Gilds.

1881.
Jan. 13th.

The particulars of the Commission having been delivered to the Masons Company, the following resolution was passed by the court:—

“That a committee, consisting of five members of the Court

¹ See *ante*, page 264.

of Assistants, do consider the questions sent to the Company by the secretary of the City of London Livery Companies' Commission."

This having been done, a report was drawn up and sent to the commissioners by the clerk of the Company. This report may be seen in vol. iii. of the *City Companies' Commission*, published as a "blue book" by Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1884. The account fills twenty folio pages, and gives all particulars concerning the Company: its constituting privileges and government, together with the Company's accounts in full from 1870 to 1879.

This return was accompanied by a letter from the Company, from which the following is an extract:—

Extract from
the Letter
from the
Clerk.

"In these answers the Company have furnished full particulars of the only trust for charitable purposes of which they have any knowledge. With respect to such of their property as is not subject to any trust, the Company are advised that they might properly as well as legally decline to furnish any information. They are not, however, disposed to insist upon their strict right.

"They think it indeed their duty to claim before the Commissioners the right which they would be entitled to assert even in legal proceedings before courts having power to enforce discovery, of protecting from disclosure their titles to the private property of which they are in possession; but with this exception they have given such information as they hope will be found sufficient for the purposes of Her Majesty's Commission.

"But in giving this information the Company desire in the most formal manner to state that their readiness to assist the Commission is not to be taken now or hereafter as any admission on their part of any right in the Crown or any other Jurisdiction to enquire into their private property, or to deal with it in disregard of their rights.

"They desire also to record their claim, That if any question be made whether any particular property is subject to any trust, or is the private property of the Company, every such question must be determined only by the courts of law."

The above appears at the commencement of the particulars relating to the Masons Company, in the report that was presented to both Houses of Parliament concerning the City of London Livery Companies' Commission, and will be found in vol. iii.

1881.
Oct. 6th.
Wardens'
Badge.

It was resolved this day that the wardens of the Company should have distinctive badges to wear on all occasions when the Company meet together.

The Com-
missioners'
Report.

On the 28th of May, 1884, the Commissioners issued their report, and from it we gather the following facts concerning the inquiry. It appeared that there were then seventy-five companies remaining out of a total, at one time, of one hundred and nine, whose income was estimated at from £750,000 to £800,000. But as this sum includes the annual value of such property as their halls, almshouses, schools, plate, furniture, and also the benefices of which they are patrons, we cannot take it as being the exact *available* income.

By deducting from the above-named sum the annual value of this tied-up property, we get a sum of about £625,000 as the income annually at the disposal of the city gilds.

Of this sum, there is a *trust* income of about £200,000, which the companies are bound to apply to certain objects in accordance with the wills of the founders.

This leaves a corporate income of something like £425,000, which is absolutely their own. Indeed, the Lord Chancellor of England stated that the companies were at law absolute and perfect masters of their corporate property, and he declined to contemplate any redistribution of the companies' corporate income by the State.

Of this corporate income no less than £150,000 is spent upon benevolent and charitable objects, as an *addition* to the previously named sum of £200,000 of trust income.

The salaries of the officers and servants of the companies take £60,000 per annum. The fees for attendance of the governing bodies are put down at £40,000. About £75,000 is yearly spent in rates, taxes, and improvement to property.

And, lastly, only £100,000 out of the original total placed by the report at between £750,000 and £800,000, is spent on enter-

tainment. But so long as the City of London is to remain famous for its hospitality, and its ancient traditions of good-fellowship, goodwill, and good-cheer, so long will the City Companies be expected to devote this apparently large sum, "about one-seventh of their income," to assist in dispensing that hospitality to the royal, noble, and learned guests who visit this world-famed metropolis.

Thus, having brought the chronicle of the Masons Company down to a date in our own time, my task is ended.

Before closing, however, I would venture a few words of reflection, induced by the result of the Parliamentary Commission which has just been considered.

The history of the Livery Companies of the City of London demonstrates the fact that although constantly at the mercy of would-be reformers, they have in every instance weathered the storm, and emerged with renewed vigour and constitutional stability.

Looking back to a period so early as the Commission of Richard II., in 1388, we find the result did not degrade the London guilds, but rather stimulated their formation.

In 1425 the masons in particular were singled out for an attack by the Parliament of Henry VI., but the Act passed to prevent them meeting in congregations or chapters was never enforced.

The Reformation, and the sudden cessation of ecclesiastical building, was perhaps the greatest blow to the esoteric side of the Gild, yet looking at the present state of speculative masonry, the recollection of that period is of trifling import.

Under the Stuarts we have seen how the rights of the companies of London were questioned by writs of "*Quo Warranto*," and how new charters were in every case granted, giving back their old powers, and in many cases an increased number of by-laws.

Notice has been taken of the Commission appointed in the first half of the present century to enquire into the constitutions

of each of the City gilds, with a result in no way unfavourable to their continuance, or to the method of dispensing their benevolence.

The late Commission has undoubtedly placed the City Companies on a firmer basis than ever, and although living as we do in an age of advanced freedom of thought, yet we have every confidence in the present law of the land, which upholds the *right* of inheritance against the *might* of discontent.

We can therefore join fearlessly in that old-time expression that wishes "*Prosperity to the Masons Company, root and branch, and may it flourish for ever.*"

PART IV

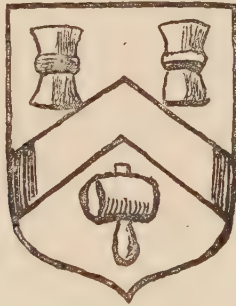
Appendix

APPENDIX

THE COMPANY OF MARBLERS OF THE CITY OF LONDON

THE history of the Company of Masons would not be complete without some notice of

THE MARBLERS.



THE COMPANY'S ARMS. STOW, 1633.

Stow says: "The Company called by the name of *Marblers*, for their excellent knowledge and skill in the Art of Insculpting personages for Tombes, Gravestones, and Monuments in Churches, and elsewhere in Religious places: their antiquity, and what respect they have carried, is unknowne to me; nor can I finde them to bee incorporated, but hold some friendship with the *Masons*, and are thought to be esteemed among them in Fellowship."

From this we gather that at the time of Stow's writing the Company had either become extinct, or perhaps merged into that

of the Masons. Of their once being a separate Company there can be no doubt, as we find in the list of burials in the Priory of Blackfriars the name of one Thomas Raynton, citizen and marbler, June 6th, 1527.¹

From the pages of Weever's *Ancient Funeral Monuments*,² Fisher's *Tombs and Monuments in St. Paul's*,³ and Dingley's *History from Marble*,⁴ some idea can be formed of the once important craft of the sculptor mason.

Their close connection with masonry doubtless led to their eventual amalgamation, and so late as 1708 we find the Masons Company petitioning Parliament to place a protective duty on wrought marble which at that date was largely being imported into England. This "case of the Masons Company," as it is called in the document, is undoubted evidence of the marble masons' affiliation with the freestone and rough masons that may have taken place about the time of the Reformation, if not earlier, when for a time the marble masons' work was at a discount.

Of the members of the Masons Company who were *marble* masons as well as *master stone* masons, I have found the following particulars :—

In the year 1395 Henry Yevele and Stephen Lite, "Citeins et Maçons de Londre," contract for erecting and carving the tomb of Anne, queen of Richard II.

This Henry Yevele is mentioned in these pages as being one of the Fellowship of Masons who attended before the Court of Aldermen in 1356, when regulations were drawn up for the trade of masons.

It is not at all unlikely that the sculptors or marblers went at times by the name of *free-masons*. In this case the word "free" would be used as in the case of "freehand" drawing, that is to say, the sculptor worked without rule and line, and had to work stone much

¹ Hazlett, *History of the Livery Companies*.

² 1631 and 1767 editions.

³ 1684, reprinted 1887.

⁴ And *Welsh Journal*.

in the same way that a modeller or draughtsman carries on his artistic occupation; indeed, the old list of Companies in 1376¹ contains the Company of Freemasons as well as the Company of Masons, and I think it quite possible that in this case the Freemasons Company is that of the Marblers, and that the amalgamation may have taken place at this time, as in the following year the Company of Masons *only* appears; but their representation on the common council is augmented by two members, which was the number returned previously by the Freemasons.¹

We must not forget that "the *Quatuor Coronati*" (mentioned in the old mason's poem, whose day was kept on November 8th) were by tradition four sculptors, and *not* stone masons.

In 1520 Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, directs by his will that £132 6s. 8d. shall be spent in making a tomb "before the high altar at Thetford, as devised by . . . Clerk, Master of the King's Works at Cambridge, and . . . Wassall, Free Mason of Bury."² In this case Master Wassall, the free-mason, was the sculptor.

Under the Stuarts sepulchral sculpture received great attention, and vast sums of money were annually spent in monumental effigies. At Miserden, in Gloucestershire, is a tomb of alabaster to Sir W. Sandys, which cost £1,000 in 1625, an expenditure exceeding the annual value of their estate at that time.³

The names of two sculptors must not be overlooked at this period: the one was William Cure, master mason to James I., and doubtless a member of the Masons Company. The other, Epiphanius Evesham.

The chief artist at this time in London was Richard Stevens, a Fleming, who was succeeded by Isaac James, under whom first lived and studied Nicholas Stone,⁴ master mason to Charles I., and master of the Masons Company in 1633-4.

¹ See *ante*, page 69, for particulars of this.

² *Gentleman's Magazine*, April, 1818.

³ *Ibid*, June, 1818.

⁴ See *ante*, page 156.

One of his chief works is at Iver, in Bucks, where a female figure is beautifully portrayed, rising from a coffin in a shroud, intended for Lady Salter.

The successors to Stone were the Marshall family, Edward and Joshua, both members of the Masons Company.

Edward Marshall, descended from a Nottinghamshire family, was admitted to the freedom of the Masons Company in 1626; master in 1650. He carried on business as a stone-cutter, or statuary mason, in Fetter Lane. After the Restoration he succeeded Nicholas Stone as master mason to Charles II. Among some of his best work as a sculptor may be mentioned the monuments of William, Earl of Devonshire, and his Countess, at Derby; Sir Robert Barkham, at Tottenham; Sir Dudley Diggs, at Chatham, and the Cutts family tomb at Swavesey, in Cambridgeshire.

Marshall died in 1675, æt. 97, and was succeeded by his son Joshua.

Joshua Marshall, master mason to Charles II., after the death of his father. He was elected a member of the Court of Assistants of the Masons Company in 1665, filling the chair as master in 1670. He died quite a young man in 1678, aged 49, and was buried near his father in the church of St. Dunstan-in-the-West.

Whether Joshua Marshall was himself a sculptor, as well as a master mason and contractor for monumental work, is difficult at this late period to determine. There is at Campden, in Gloucestershire, a very fine monument to the memory of Edward Noel, Lord Campden, and his wife, standing in their winding-sheets within a cabinet, the folding doors of which are thrown open; the whole is executed in black and white marble. On this beautiful piece of work is the name of Joshua Marshall, and the date 1664.

When the Monument on Fish Street Hill, London, was erected by Wren after the fire, Joshua Marshall was the *contractor* for the stone work. The carving of the panels, however, was done by Gabriel Cibber, who is described in the accounts as sculptor-mason.

Again, Joshua Marshall was the mason for rebuilding Temple Bar, but the carving was the work of Bushnell, showing clearly that in London he was employed only as the master mason.

As a contractor he may have employed sculptors to do the strictly artistic portion of his monumental work ; and as contractor would place his name on the finished work, more as an advertisement than as a signature of an artist.

Shortly after the time of Joshua Marshall the protective rights of the City Companies fell into decay, and although at times an attempt was made to enforce their Charter, the requirements of the general public overran the old civic traditions, and artizans of all trades began to work independently of the various Companies. Consequently the Marblers' influence on the trade or profession of the sculptor masons became a thing of the past.

INVENTORY OF BOOKS AND OTHER PROPERTY BELONGING TO THE
 WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS, NOW IN THE CUSTODY OF
 THEIR CLERK. 1894.

No. on
 Book.

1. A Copy of the Charter of the Company dated 14th December, 29th Charles II.
2. The Original Bye-Laws, 1678.
3. Book containing Copy of the Charters of 9th February, 2nd James, II., and of 29th Charles II., and of the exemplification of 5th June of 1st Queen Anne reviving the Charter of Charles II.
- 3*a*. Confirmation of Charter of Charles II. by Queen Anne, on vellum (now in tin case).
4. Book containing Copy of Charter of Charles II. and the Bye-Laws of 1678.
5. A List of the Freemen of the Company up to the year 1795.
6. The Freedom Book from 1694 to 1786.
7. A List of Apprentices up to the year 1795, and to the present time.
8. An Orphanage Book.
9. Quarterage Book from 1663 to 1695, containing List of Apprentices and Freemen.
10. Court Book, from 27th March, 1677; to 8th January, 1694.
11. " " 9th April, 1695, to 6th June, 1722.
12. " " June, 1722, to March, 1750.
13. " " 1st March, 1750, to 9th November, 1796.
14. " " 1784 to 1805.
15. " " 14th June, 1805, to 3rd October, 1839.
16. " " 9th November, 1839, to 9th November, 1867.
17. " " 9th January, 1868, to present time.
18. Book containing several Accounts, from 1620 to 1706, bound up together.
19. Account Book, from 1704 to 1799.
20. " " 1799 to present time.
21. Irish Estate Account, from 1832 to 1877.
22. " " " 1877 to present time.
 Six Books (Reports) on Irish Estates.
23. Book (dated 1691) containing Accounts of quantity of Stone searched by the Company of Masons.

No. on
Book.

24. Books of Sabastian Serlius Bononiensis on Architecture, printed in Venice, 1569, and presented to the Company by William Lloyd, 1643.
25. Day Book, from 29th January, 1677, to 26th September, 1682.
26. " " 11th July, 1682, to 15th July, 1690.
27. " " 7th October, 1690, to 8th December, 1696.
28. " " 19th January, 1696, to 25th June, 1708.
29. " " 14th July, 1708, to 4th March, 1716.
30. " " 28th March, 1717, to 28th February, 1723.
31. " " 1st April, 1731, to 5th December, 1740.¹
33. " " 31st March, 1768, to 1st July, 1784.
34. Report from the Clerk to the Court as to their Charitable Funds and Returns made to the City of London Livery Companies' Commission, 1882, bound together.
Printed Copy of Evidence taken before the City of London Livery Companies and Commission, 1882, 1883 (13th day missing).
35. Court Minute Book, commencing 1st October, 1885.
36. Ledger, commencing August, 1888.
Also a Transcript of the Grant of Arms, dated 1472.
(The original grant is in the British Museum, see Minute Book, 6th October, 1870, and 9th November, 1870).

THE PLATE.

Only a small portion of the plate originally in the possession of the Company now remains. From the inventories taken at different dates in the last century, it appears that at that time even certain mazers, bowls, etc., etc., dating from the time of Elizabeth, or perhaps earlier, had survived the ravages of the Great Rebellion, and were carefully preserved in the chest at Masons' Hall.

At what time and for what reason these valuables were parted with we are unable to decide; the books of the Company contain no record whatever respecting them.

¹ On June 15, 1893, the writer found three Minute Books, dated 1723 to 1730, 1740 to 1753, and 1753 to 1768, among the rough papers of the Company kept in the strong room.

The following is a list of all that remain :—

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| The Seal of the Company. | One Tankard. |
| The head of the Beadle's Mace. | Two Loving Cups. |
| One Chalice. | One Snuff-box. |

The seal of the Company, of silver, mounted in ivory, dates from the middle of the last century, and bears the Masons' arms, with mantling, helmet, and motto. The arms are curious, inasmuch as the blazon differs from all the other various examples that are known: viz., *Argent* on a chevron (plain) *Or*, between three towers, a pair of compasses, somewhat extended. Crest, a tower, as in the arms; Motto, "In the Lord is all our trust." The gold chevron on the silver shield is a singular error.

The head of the beadle's mace, of which a picture is given on page 267, is a handsome piece of the silversmith's work of the period. Round the urn-shaped base is the following inscription :—

"The gift of George Mercer, Esq., Father of the Worshipful Company of Masons, 29 September, 1791."

He was Master during the year 1763. The date-letter is the small roman P of 1790. The height is nearly 17 inches, and the weight 48 ounces.

The two loving cups are of modern manufacture, and were presented to the Company in 1873.

They are not remarkable for elegance, although not without a certain amount of Masonic symbolism. They are 12 inches high, and weigh respectively 31 ounces 10 dwts., and 30 ounces 12 dwts. The inscriptions are as follows :—

Presented to
The Worshipful Company of Masons
by
G. R. Wales, Master,
J. R. Freeman and H. Robinson, Wardens,
January, 1873.
and
Presented to
The Worshipful Company of Masons,
by the undermentioned Members of the Court :

| | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| W. Freeman, | W. Piper, | J. Hawkshaw, |
| T. Piper, | H. H. Burnell, | F. Gwatkin, |
| P. F. Page, | E. Bull, | J. Greenwood. |
| A. Gwilt, | D. M. Evans, | |
| | January, 1873. | |

The chalice, a plain-shaped cup, stands seven inches high, and weighs 10 ounces 13 dwts. It has the following inscription:—

**The gift of Edward Gerard to the
Worthy Companie of Masons 1647.**

From the date letter (the court-hand B) we see that the year of manufacture was 1639, a remarkable year, as very little plate was manufactured after that date until 1650, all silver being utilised either by the Royalists or Insurgents to pay the enormous war expenditure that was then impoverishing the country.

The tankard is equally plain in design ; it weighs 20 ounces, and is about six inches high. It bears the Masons' arms (plain chevron and tower surmounting), with mantling and helm, and the following,—

**The Gift of
Edward Marshall, Master,
1649.**

On the lid or cover is engraved the arms of the Marshall family : viz., Gules, two bars *Argent* on a canton *Ermine*, an inescutcheon of the second. Crest, a demi-man in armour *pp.*, holding a baton in the dexter hand.

From the hall-mark (the court hand M) it would appear that this cup was made in 1649, a year also remarkable in the history of the goldsmiths' art.

The silver snuff-box was presented to the Company by Mr. Henry Sarson in 1884. It bears the arms of the Company (plain chevron and towers), but is without inscription. It measures $5\frac{1}{4} \times 4 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and weighs 14 ounces.

A LIST OF MASTERS AND WARDENS OF THE MASONS COMPANY.

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. | Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|--|--|---|--------|---------------------------|---|
| 1620 July 11. | James Gilder . . . | William Warde. John Abraham. | 1643 | Thomas Moore . . . | John Younge. Edward Marshall. |
| 1621 | John Dowse . . . | Richard Middleton. Robert Moreton. | 1644 | William Dorbar . . . | Richard Bancks. Thomas Richardson. |
| 1622 | Henry Parkins . . . | William Warde. Edward Kynsman. | 1645 | Thomas Stanley . . . | John Collis. Humfrey Moyer. |
| 1623 | William Warde . . . | Thomas Turpin. Benamyn Richardson. | 1646 | John Younge . . . | Henry Wilson. John Fitzwilliams. |
| 1624 | Richard Middleton . . . | William Wilson. Gilbert Arnold. | 1647 | Richard Bancks . . . | Edward Marshall. Robert Lewes. |
| 1625 | Thomas Turpin . . . | Thomas Jordan. Henry Walton. | 1648 | John Collis . . . | Thomas Richardson. Thomas Florrey. |
| 1626 | William Wilson . . . | John Hince. Richard Chilton. | 1649 | Henry Wilson . . . | Humfrey Moyer. Thomas Jordan. |
| 1627 | Thomas Jordan . . . | Gilbert Arnold. Nicholas Stone. | 1650 | Edward Marshall . . . | Roger Lewes. Andrew Mervin. |
| 1628 | John Hince . . . | Henry Walton. Thomas Priestman. | 1651 | Thomas Richardson . . . | Richard Mildmay. Abell Palmer. |
| 1629 | Gilbert Arnold . . . | Richard Chilton. Francis French. | 1652 | Richard Mildmay . . . | Thomas Florrey. John Yonge. |
| 1630 | Richard Middleton . . . | Nicholas Stone. ¹ Timothy Townsend. | 1653 | Humfrey Moyer . . . | Thomas Jordaine. Benjamin Richardson. |
| 1631 | Richard Middleton . . . | Richard Hide. William Smith. | 1654 | Roger Lewes . . . | Abel Palmer. Richard Hernden. |
| 1632 | Richard Chilton . . . | Thomas Priestman. John Shuttleworth. | 1655 | Henry Wilson . . . | Clement Cole. John Young. |
| 1633 | Nicholas Stone ¹ . . . (Master Mason unto the King's Majesty) | Francis French. Daniel Chaloner. | 1656 | Thomas Jordaine . . . | Benjamin Richardson. Thomas Shorthose. |
| 1634 | Nicholas Stone ¹ . . . (Master Mason unto the King's Majesty) | Edmond Kinsman. Richard Lluellyn. | 1657 | John Yonge . . . | John Parker. John Lasoe. |
| 1635 | Edmond Kinsman . . . | Hugh Jones. Thomas Moore. | 1658 | Benjamin Richardson . . . | Thomas Stanton. William Drewe. |
| 1636 | Thomas Priestman . . . | John Gardiner. William Dorbar. | 1659 | John Parker . . . | Thomas Moore. Frances Hayley. |
| 1637 | Francis French . . . | William Smith. Thomas Stanley. | 1660 | Thomas Stanton . . . | Richard Herenden. Stephen Switzer. |
| 1638 | Hugh Jones . . . | John Shuttleworth. Richard Bancks. | 1661 | Thomas Moore . . . | Clement Cole. George Dowyer. |
| 1639 | John Gardiner . . . | Guy Glendoning. Richard Lluellyn. | 1662 | Richard Herenden . . . | Thomas Shorthose. John Younge. |
| 1640 | William Smith . . . | Thomas Moore. James Holmes. | 1663 | Clement Cole . . . | William Drewe. Richard Smith. |
| 1641 | John Shuttleworth . . . | William Dorbar. William Mills. | 1664-5 | Thomas Shorthose . . . | Stephen Switzer. Thomas Shadbolt. |
| 1642 | Richard Lluellyn . . . | Thomas Stanley. Henry Wilson. | 1665-6 | Stephen Switzer . . . | John Shuttleworth. Joshua Marshall. |
| The Feast of the An- nunciation of the B.V.M. 24th March | | | 1666-7 | George Dowswell . . . | Thomas Shadbolt. James Masters. |
| | | | 1667-8 | John Shuttleworth . . . | Henry Banckes. Richard Crooke. |
| | | | 1668-9 | Thomas Shadbolt . . . | Joshua Marshall. Thomas Burman. |

¹ Nicholas Stone styled in the accounts, "Master Mason to the King's Majesty"; he is the only person so designated. The Society of Freemasons claim him as "Deputy Grand Master" under Inigo Jones. There is no doubt that he was responsible for the practical masonry in most of Jones's works.

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. | Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|---------------|-----------------------|--|---------------|------------------------|---|
| 1669 | Henry Banckes . . . | James Bryan. Thomas Place. | 1698 | Thomas Wise . . . | Ephraim Beacham. Robert Smyth. |
| 1670 | Joshua Marshall . . . | James Masters. William London. | 1699 | Thomas Hill. . . . | Robert Smyth. William Collins. |
| 1671 | James Bryan . . . | Thomas Cartwright. Thomas Berrowe. | 1700 | Christopher Kempster | William Collins. William Kempster. |
| 1672 | James Masters . . . | Richard Croke. Leonard Noble. | 1701 | Ephraim Beacham . | William Kempster. John Walker. |
| 1673 | Thomas Cartwright . | Thomas Burman. Abraham Storey. | 1702 | Thomas Craven . . | John Walker. William Woodman. |
| 1674 | Richard Cooke . . . | Thomas Place. Nicholas Younge. | 1703 | William Wise . . . | William Woodman. Thomas Stanner. |
| 1675 | Thomas Place . . . | Thomas Berrowe. Henry Wilson. | 1704 | William Collins. . . | John Walker. Mr. Cartwright. |
| 1676 | Thomas Berrowe . . | Stephen Bempsted. John Shorthose. | 1705 | William Kempster. . | Thomas Cartwright. James Hardy. |
| 1677 | Mr. Marshall . . . | Mr. Noble. Mr. Parsons. | 1706 | John Walker . . . | Thomas Stanner Richard Garbutt. |
| June 14, 1678 | Mr. Bumpsted . . . | Mr. Storey. Mr. Martin. | 1707 | William Collins. . . | James Hardy. Richard Crowther. |
| 1679 | Mr. Noble . . . | Nicholas Young. Thomas Knight. | 1708 | William Woodman . | Richard Garbutt. Thomas Stemaker. |
| 1680 | Abraham Storey . . | Henry Wilson. William Hammond. | 1709 | Thomas Stainer . . | Thomas Cartwright. James Padget. |
| 1681 | Thomas Wise . . . | John Shorthose. William Stanton. | 1710 | Thomas Cartwright . | Richard Crutcher. Edward Buckingham. |
| 1682 | Nicholas Young . . | John Martin. John Setle. | 1711 | James Hardy . . . | Thomas Slemaker. William Holland. |
| 1683 | Henry Wilson . . . | William Hammond. John Thompson. | 1712 | Richard Garbutt . . | James Padget. Edward Strong, jun. |
| 1684 | Abraham Storey . . | William Stanton. John Thompson. | 1713 | Richard Crutcher . . | Edward Buckingham. Edward Stanton. |
| 1685 | Abraham Storey . . | William Stanton. John Thompson. | 1714 | Thomas Slemaker . . | William Holland. Barthew Woolfe. |
| 1686 | John Shorthose . . | John Thompson. John Young. | 1715 | James Padget . . . | Edward Strong, jun. Thomas Cartwright. |
| 1687 | John Martin . . . | John Young. Christopher Kempster. | 1716 | Edward Buckingham. | Edward Stanton. Charles Gardiner. |
| 1688 | William Stanton . . | Christopher Kempster. Edward Michell. | 1717 | William Holland . . | Barth Woolfe. Thomas Watts. |
| 1689 | William Stanton . . | Christopher Kempster. Jasper Latham. | 1718 | Edward Strong, jun. . | Capt. Thos. Cartwright. Thomas Watts. |
| 1690 | John Thompson . . | Edward Michell. Michael Todd. | 1719 | Capt. Edward Stanton | Charles Gardiner. Christopher Cass. |
| 1691 | Christopher Kempster | Michael Todd. William Stanborough. | 1720 | Barth Woolfe . . . | Thomas Watts. Capt. Samuel Saunders. |
| 1692 | Edward Michell . . | William Stanborough. William Grey. | 1721 | Capt. Thos. Cartwright | John Gilbert. Joshua Fletcher. |
| 1693 | William Stanborough. | William Grey. John Clarke. | June 14, 1722 | Charles Gardiner . . | Christopher Cass. Thomas Dunn. |
| 1694 | Mr. Cartwright . . . | Edward Strong. John Croke. | 1723 | John Gilbert . . . | Captain Saunders. Robert Kidwell. |
| 1695 | John Young . . . | Thomas Hill. William Wise. | 1724 | John Cooper . . . | Joshua Fletcher. Richard Lissiman. |
| 1696 | Edward Strong . . . | William Wise. Giles Stretton. | 1725 | Christopher Cass . . | Thomas Dunn. Humphrey Higgett. |
| 1697 | John Clarke . . . | John Croke. Ephraim Beacham. | 1726 | Capt. Samuel Saunders | Robert Kidwell. Joshua Channing. |

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. | Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|-------|------------------------|--|-------|--|---|
| 1727 | Thomas Dunn . . . | Richard Lissiman. John Stanley. | 1756 | Charles Clavey . . . | John David. William Walker. |
| 1728 | Robert Kidwell . . . | Joshua Channing. James Watts. | 1757 | John David (died in office) | William Walker. |
| 1729 | Richard Lissiman, jun. | John Stanley, jun. Robert Taylor, jun. | | Mr. Deputy Horsnail | William Dellar. |
| 1730 | Joshua Channing . . . | James Watts. Christopher Horsenaile, | 1758 | William Walker . . . | William Dellar. John Davall. |
| 1731 | John Stanley. . . . | Thomas Iden. [jun. Robert Taylor. | 1759 | William Dellar . . . | John Davall. Samuel Gainsborough. |
| 1732 | James Watts. . . . | Christopher Horsenaile. Martin Wardell. | 1760 | John Davall | Samuel Gainsborough. Joseph Renleside. |
| 1733 | Robert Taylor . . . | Thos. Iden. Oliver Kidwell. | 1761 | Samuel Gainsborough | Joseph Renleside. George Mercer. |
| 1734 | Christopher Horsenaile | Martin Wardell. George Greaves. | 1762 | Joseph Renleside . . | George Mercer. William Richards. |
| 1735 | Thos. Iden | Oliver Kidwell. Edward Townsend. | 1763 | George Mercer . . . | William Richards. Samuel Steemson. |
| 1736 | Martin Wardell. . . | George Greaves. Samuel Worrall. | 1764 | William Richards . . | Samuel Steemson. William Annis. |
| 1737 | Oliver Kidwell . . . | Edward Townsend. Richard Charlton. | 1765 | Samuel Steemson . . | William Annis. Thomas Bigg. |
| 1738 | Edward Townsend . . | Samuel Worrall. Walter Lee. | 1766 | William Annis . . . | Moses Wayte. John Dueffell. |
| 1739 | Samuel Worrall . . . | Richard Charlton. Andrew Jelf. | 1767 | Moses Wayte | John Dueffell. Ralph Hotchkin. |
| 1740 | Richard Charlton . . | Walter Lee. John Annis. | 1768 | John Dueffell | Ralph Hotchkin. George Fayting. |
| 1741 | Walter Lee | Andrew Jelf. James Crofts. | 1769 | Ralph Hotchkin . . . | George Fayting. Henry Gregory. |
| 1742 | Andrew Jelf | David Shrimpton. Thomas Scott. | 1770 | Henry Gregory . . . | Thomas Stephens. James Wardell. |
| 1743 | David Shrimpton . . | James Croft. John Gresham. | 1771 | Thomas Stephens . . | James Wardell. Thomas Gayfere. |
| 1744 | James Crofts | Thomas Scott. Thomas Bull. | 1772 | James Wardell . . . | Thomas Gayfere. M. Babb. |
| 1745 | Thomas Scott | Thomas Bull. Richard Bowles. | 1773 | Thomas Gayfere . . . | John Scott. John Dixon. |
| 1746 | Thomas Bull. | Joshua Fletcher. William Bowles. | 1774 | John Scott | John Dixon. John Rawlinson. |
| 1747 | Richard Bowles . . . | Joshua Fletcher. Edward Anderson. | 1775 | John Dixon | John Rawlinson. William Gates. |
| 1748 | Joshua Fletcher . . . | Edward Anderson. James Wardell. | 1776 | John Rawlinson . . . | William Gates. John Richards. |
| 1749 | Edward Anderson. . . | James Wardell. John Bell. | 1777 | William Gates | John Richards. Henry Russell. |
| 1750 | James Wardell | John Bell. Benjamin Hunt. | 1778 | John Richards | Richard Tunks. John Wynne. |
| 1751 | John Bell | Benjamin Hunt. Clement Hart. | 1779 | Richard Tunks | John Wynne. Thomas Beard. |
| 1752 | Benjamin Hunt. . . . | William Bull. Charles Easton. | 1780 | John Wynne. | Thomas Beard. Richard Buddle. |
| 1753 | Walter Lee | Charles Easton. Alexander Routhead. | 1781 | Thomas Beard | Richard Buddle. Thomas Burnell. |
| 1754 | Charles Easton . . . | Alexander Routhead. Charles Clavey. | 1782 | Richard Buddle . . . | Thomas Burnell. John Devall. |
| 1755 | Alexander Routhead . | Charles Clavey. John David. | 1783 | Thomas Burnell . . . | John Devall. Richard Jones. |

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|-------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1784 | John Devall . . . | Richard Jones. William Bailey. |
| 1785 | Richard Jones . . . | William Bailey. John Walter. |
| 1786 | William Bailey . . . | — Harper. John Walter. |
| 1787 | — Harper . . . | John Walter. Thomas Green. |
| 1788 | John Walter . . . | Thomas Green. George Gwilt. |
| 1789 | Thomas Green . . . | George Gwilt. John Hinchcliff. |
| 1790 | George Gwilt . . . | John Hinchcliff. Thomas Waller. |
| 1791 | John Hinchcliff . . . | Thomas Waller. George Prince. |
| 1792 | Thomas Waller . . . | George Prince. — Clemmons. |
| 1793 | George Prince . . . | — Clemmons. George Scott. |
| 1794 | George Prince (2nd time) . . . | George Scott. Henry Scrimshaw. |
| 1795 | George Scott . . . | Henry Scrimshaw. Andrew Nicoll. |
| 1796 | Henry Scrimshaw . . . | Andrew Nicoll. John Prince. |
| 1797 | Andrew Nicoll . . . | John Prince. Henry Gregory. |
| 1798 | John Prince . . . | Henry Gregory. James Perry. |
| 1799 | Henry Gregory . . . | James Perry. John Dueffell. |
| 1800 | James Perry . . . | John Dueffell. Thomas Swithin. |
| 1801 | John Dueffell . . . | Thomas Swithin. George Whitlock. |
| 1802 | Thomas Swithin . . . | George Whitlock. Thomas Burnell, jun. |
| 1803 | George Whitlock . . . | Samuel Ireland. Samuel Ireland. |
| 1804 | Thomas Burnell, jun.. | Thomas Wood. Thomas Wood. |
| 1805 | Samuel Ireland . . . | John Green. John Peter Holloway. |
| 1806 | Thomas Wood . . . | John Peter Holloway. Benjamin Marshall. |
| 1807 | John Green . . . | Benjamin Marshall. John Cadogan. |
| 1808 | John Peter Holloway . | John Cadogan. John Richards. |
| 1809 | Benjamin Marshall . . | John Richards. John Malcott. |
| 1810 | John Cadogan . . . | John Malcott. John Malcott. |
| 1811 | John Richards . . . | Thomas Piper. |

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| 1812 | John Malcott . . . | Thomas Piper. Joseph Meymott. |
| 1813 | Thomas Piper . . . | Joseph Meymott. Henry Burnell. |
| 1814 | Joseph Meymott . . . | Henry Burnell. William Cadogan. |
| 1815 | Henry Burnell . . . | William Cadogan. Thomas Grundy. |
| 1816 | William Cadogan . . . | Thomas Grundy. William Henshall. |
| 1817 | Thomas Grundy . . . | William Henshall. William Archer Dixon. |
| 1818 | William Henshall . . . | William Archer Dixon. George Gwilt. |
| 1819 | William Archer Dixon . | George Gwilt. Martin Stukely. |
| 1820 | Martin Stukely . . . | John Moginie. Robert Shout. |
| 1821 | John Moginie . . . | Robert Shout. George Parminter. |
| 1822 | Robert Shout . . . | George Parminter. Richard Heale. |
| 1823 | George Parminter . . . | Richard Heale. John Rowden. |
| 1824 | Richard Heale . . . | John Rowden. William Clayton Storey |
| 1825 | John Rowden . . . | William Clayton Storey. John Paulin. |
| 1826 | William Clayton Storey | John Paulin. John Harkness. |
| 1827 | John Paulin . . . | John Harkness. William Freeman. |
| 1828 | John Harkness . . . | William Freeman. Thomas Burnell. |
| 1829 | William Freeman . . . | Thomas Burnell. John Richards. |
| 1830 | Thomas Burnell . . . | John Richards. John Malcott. |
| 1831 | John Richards . . . | John Malcott. Thomas Piper. |
| 1832 | John Malcott . . . | Thomas Piper. Henry Burnell. |
| 1833 | Thomas Piper . . . | Henry Burnell. George Gwilt. |
| 1834 | Henry Burnell . . . | George Gwilt. William Cadogan. |
| 1835 | George Gwilt . . . | William Cadogan. Martin Stukeley. |
| 1836 | William Cadogan . . . | John Moginie. John Rowden. |
| 1837 | John Moginie . . . | John Rowden. William Clayton Storey. |
| 1838 | John Rowden . . . | William Clayton Storey. James Richards. |
| 1839 | William Clayton Storey | James Richards. Thomas Piper. |
| 1840 | James Richards . . . | Thomas Piper, jun. John Rowles Mallocott. |

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. | Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|-------|---|--|-------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1841 | Thomas Piper, jun. | Martin Stukeley. Philip Flood Page. | 1867 | Wilson Thomas Piper | William Piper. Alfred Gwilt. |
| 1842 | Martin Stukeley . . | Philip Flood Page. John Meriscoe Pearse. | 1868 | William Piper . . . | Alfred Gwilt. Henry Hockey Burnell. |
| 1843 | Philip Flood Page. . | John Meriscoe Pearse. Thomas Burnell. | 1869 | Alfred Gwilt | Henry Hockey Burnell. Joseph Freeman. |
| 1844 | John Meriscoe Pearse | Thomas Burnell. George Gwilt. | 1870 | Henry Hockey Burnell (2nd time) | Joseph Freeman. Edward Bull. |
| 1845 | Thomas Burnell . . . | George Gwilt. John Richards. | 1871 | Edward Bull | George Richard Wales. John Russell Freeman. |
| 1846 | George Gwilt | John Richards. Henry Nicholson. | 1872 | George Richard Wales (2nd time) | John Russell Freeman. Henry Robertson. |
| 1847 | John Richards . . . | Henry Nicholson. William Piper. | 1873 | John Russell Freeman (2nd time) | Henry Robertson. Frederick Gwatkin. |
| 1848 | Henry Nicholson . . | William Piper. Alfred Gwilt. | 1874 | Henry Robertson . . | Sir John Hawkshaw, Kt. John Greenwood. |
| 1849 | William Piper . . . | Alfred Gwilt. William Freeman. | 1875 | Sir John Hawkshaw, Kt. | John Greenwood. Edward Conder. |
| 1850 | Alfred Gwilt. . . . | William Freeman. Thomas Piper. | 1876 | John Greenwood . . | Edward Conder. Charles Henry Storey (resigned). William Piper. |
| 1851 | William Freeman . . | Thomas Piper. Henry Burnell. | 1877 | Edward Conder . . | William Piper. Alfred Gwilt. |
| 1852 | Thomas Piper . . . | Henry Burnell. George Gwilt. | 1878 | William Piper . . . | Alfred Gwilt. Henry Hockey Burnell. |
| 1853 | Henry Burnell . . . | George Gwilt. John C. Storey. | 1879 | Alfred Gwilt | Henry Hockey Burnell. Arthur John Baker. |
| 1854 | George Gwilt | John C. Storey. Martin Stukeley. | 1880 | Henry Hockey Burnell (3rd time) | Arthur John Baker. The Hon. Gerald Tal- bot. |
| 1855 | John C. Storey . . . | Henry Nicholson. John Meriscoe Pearse. | 1881 | Arthur John Baker . | The Hon. Gerald Tal- bot. Henry Sarson. |
| 1856 | Henry Nicholson . . | John Meriscoe Pearse. Philip Flood Page. | 1882 | The Hon. Gerald Tal- bot | Henry Sarson. John Hunter. |
| 1857 | John Meriscoe Pearse | Philip Flood Page. Henry Hockey Burnell. | 1883 | John Hunter | Henry Sarson. Russell Selby Freeman. |
| 1858 | Philip Flood Page. . | Henry Hockey Burnell. Wilson Thomas Piper. | 1884 | Henry Sarson | Russell Selby Freeman. John Greenwood, jun. |
| 1859 | Henry Hockey Burnell | Wilson Thomas Piper. Joseph Freeman. | 1885 | Russell Selby Freeman | John Greenwood, jun. Edward Hodson Bay- ley. |
| 1860 | Wilson Thomas Piper (resigned January 10th, 1861) | Joseph Freeman. Edward Bull. | 1886 | John Greenwood, junr. | Edward Hodson Bay- ley. Edward Cozens Smith. |
| 1861 | Henry Hockey Burnell | Edward Bull. George Richard Wales. | 1887 | Edward Hodson Bay- ley | Edward Cozens Smith. John Cox. |
| 1862 | Edward Bull | George Richard Wales. George Rowden Bur- nell. | 1888 | Edward Cozens Smith | John Cox. Henry Benson James. |
| 1863 | George Richard Wales | George Rowden Bur- nell. John Lucas Allen. | 1889 | John Cox | Henry Benson James. Thomas Wigglesworth. |
| 1864 | George Rowden Bur- nell | John Russell Freeman Henry Robertson. | 1890 | Henry Benson James | Thomas Wigglesworth. Edward Spencer Sti- dolph. |
| 1865 | John Russell Freeman | Henry Robertson. Wilson Thomas Piper. | | | |
| 1866 | Henry Robertson . . | Wilson Thomas Piper. William Piper. | | | |

| Year. | Master. | Wardens. | Year. | Master. | Wardens. |
|-------|--------------------------|---|-------|----------------------------------|---|
| 1891 | Thomas Wigglesworth | Edward Spencer Stidolph. Leonard James Williams. | 1893 | Leonard James Williams | Edward Conder, jun. Henry Logsdail Sarson. |
| 1892 | Edward Spencer Stidolph. | Leonard James Williams. Edward Conder, jun. | 1894 | Edward Conder, jun.. | Henry Logsdail Sarson. Frederick Toulmin Shadbolt. |

1356.

MEMBERS OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF MASONS OF THE CITY OF LONDON, CIRCA 1356.

Henry de Yevele, *Master Mason to the King's Majestie.*
Walter de Sallynge.
Richard de Sallynge.
Thomas de Bredon.
John de Tyryngton.
Thomas de Gloucester.
Richard Joyce.
Symon de Bartone.
John de Estone.
John Wylot.
Thomas Hardegray.
Richard de Cornewalle.
Richard atte Cherche, *City Viewer in 1368.*
Thomas atte Barnet, *City Viewer.*
Walter le Bole, *Chief Mason at Westminster.*
William de Ramseye, *Chief Mason at St. Paul's.*
Riginaldus de Whytham, *Chief Masons at the Tower.*
Robertus de Dippenhale, }

1537. THE LIVERY OF THE CRAFT OR MISTERY OF FFREE MASONS OF LONDON IN 1537.

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Robert Lynke. | William Ashton. | John Paskyn. | Robert Havote. |
| George Symson. | John Humphrey. | John Howard. | Edmond Rand. |
| Mr. Elmer. | William Chamberlain. | William Rigenay. | Thomas Hawys. |
| Thomas Newell. | Robert Sheeford. | John Richardson. | Symon Kyngsfield. |
| John Orger. | Richard Mydleton. | John Corbett. | John Carter. |
| Thomas West. | Thomas Barker. | Thomas Wilde | Richard Wolsham. |
| William Prybeck. | Henry Mercer. | ffrancis Boone. | Thomas Matson. |
| Gabrell Oaldham. | Robert Smythe. | William Holmes. | Lewis Tucker. |
| Henry Pesemedede. | Gilbert Borassain. | Thomas Blomefeld. | Robert Prybeil. |
| William Johnson. | | | |

1563.

THE COMPANY OF FREE MASONS¹ IN THE YEAR 1563.

| | | THE LIVERY. | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| John Surbutt. John Tanner. William Preble. William Asheton. John Richardson. Thomas Watson. Philip Paskyn. William Wilde. Thomas Harris. William Kerwyn. ² | THE COURT OF ASSISTANTS. | Thomas Haws. | Thomas Clarke. | William Rydgways. |
| | | Ralph Hills. | Edward Arnolde. | James Rydgways. |
| | | Robert Smythe. | Francis Bowe. | Thomas Ford. |
| | | Robert Puckle. | Richard Richardson. | Edward Mercer. |
| | | Thomas Wilde. | Miles Richardson. | Valentine Mercer. |
| | | Martin Harber. | William Nicholson. | Simon Asheton. |
| | | John Styelas. | Thomas Pryer. | Reginald Walker. |
| | | Edmond Kingsfield. | John Carter. | Richard Dawson. |
| | | Thomas Taylor. | Christopher Batty. | Michael Abraham. |
| | | William Kettell. | Christopher Semer. | John Adams. |
| | | Thomas Jackson. | Edmond Cooke. | William Holmes. |

1620. A LIST OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY OF FREE-MASONS WHO
SUBSCRIBED TOWARDS PROVIDING POWDER AND MATCH FOR THE USE OF THE
COMPANY IN THE YEAR 1620.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mr. James Gilder, <i>Master.</i> | Henry Walton. | Thomas Myles. | John Gardener. |
| John Abram, } <i>Wardens.</i> | Richard Chilton. | Gilbert Arnold. | William Owle. |
| William Warde, } | Thomas Priestman. | Leonard Corbin. | Richard Bancke. |
| Thomas Paskyn. | John Dowse. | John Rifford. | Thomas Hopkins. |
| John Groome. | Thomas Turnpin. | Thomas Hooker. | Thomas Adams. |
| William Wilson. | Evan Lloyd. | Richard Bayley. | Henry Abbott. |
| Thomas Jordan. | James French. | Richard Lleullin. | Josiah Taylor. |
| Henry Parkins. | John Browne. | Ralphe Durbar. | John Williams. |
| Benjamin Richardson. | Nicholas Stone. | Daniel Challoner. | George Ivery. |
| Robert Moreton. | William Rogers. | William Durbar. | Thomas Saunders. |
| Richard Hide. | Gyles Pauncefoote. | | |

1676.

A LIST OF THE MASONS COMPANY FOR THE YEAR 1676.

THE COURT OF ASSISTANTS.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mr. Thos. Berrowe, <i>Master.</i> | Mr. James Bryan, sen. | Mr. Thomas Knight. |
| „ Stephen Bumpstead, <i>Upper Warden.</i> | „ James Masters. | „ William Hammond. |
| „ John Shorthose, <i>Renter Warden.</i> | „ William Bussey. | „ John Grove. |
| „ Roger Lewis. | „ Thomas Cartwright. | „ William Stanton. |
| „ John Young. | „ Richard Crooke. | „ John Settle. |
| „ Benjamin Richardson. | „ William London. | „ John Thompson. |
| „ Thomas Shorthose. | „ Leonard Noble. | „ Thomas Strong. |
| „ John Shuttleworth. | „ Abraham Storey. | „ John Young, jun. |
| „ Thomas Shotboults, sen. | „ Nicholas Young. | „ Thomas Wise. |
| „ Joshua Marshall. | „ Henry Wilson. | „ Michael Todd. |

¹ Taken from the names on the deeds relating to the purchase of the Hall. It is possible that some of these were only Freemen, and not on the Livery.

² Buried in the church of Great St. Helen, Bishopsgate.

THE LIVERY.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Mr. John Whitby. | Mr. Andrew Simmonds. | Mr. John Stone. | Mr. Benjamin Thody. |
| " John Stone. | " Richard Hutchinson. | " Edward Heylin. | " John Glover. |
| " John Persons. | " Henry Elims. | " Edward Mitchell. | " John Burges. |
| " John Martin. | " Thomas Craven. | " Robert Bushnell. | " Henry Prescott. |
| " Joshua Mildmay. | " William Hughes. | " John Clark. | " Robert Waters. |
| " Robert Brittain. | " William Cooper. | " Richard Banckes. | " Daniel Norris. |
| " Thomas Ryland. | " Samuel Taylor. | " Christopher Kempster. | " Peter Powell. |
| " Robert Mortimer. | " Robert Bradles. | " Simon Heylen. | " John ffetch. |
| " William King. | " James Bryan, jun. | " Thomas Kirkham. | " Joseph Cartwright. |
| " Edward Ellen. | " John Richardson. | " Thomas Shadbolt, jun. | " John Wate. |
| " John Richardson. | " William Stanborough. | " William Payne. | " Peter Roberts. |
| " Thomas Hawkes. | " Simon James. | " Thomas Gilbert. | " Henry Pagett. |

1731. THE NAMES OF THE MASTER, WARDENS, ASSISTANTS, AND LIVERY
OF THIS COMPANY THE 29TH OF OCTOBER, 1731.

Mr. John Stanley, *Master*. Mr. Robert Taylor,¹ *Upper Warden*. Mr. Thomas Iden, *Renter Warden*.

ASSISTANTS.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. William Woodman. ² | Mr. John Gilbert. | Mr. David Legros. | Mr. Chris Horsenaile. |
| " Thomas Stainer. | " Christopher Cass. | " Joshua Channing. | " Martin Wardell. |
| " William Holland. | Capt. Samuel Saunders. | " James Watts. | " Oliver Ridwell. |
| " Edward Strong. ³ | Mr. Thomas Dunn. ⁴ | " William Bucknell. ⁵ | " Francis Comines. |
| Capt. Edward Stanton. | " Mr. Robert Ridwell. | " Thomas Stanton. | " George Greaves. |
| " Thomas Cartwright. | " Richard Lissiman. | | |

LIVERY.

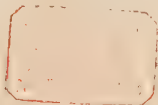
| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Mr. Samuel Hunton. ⁶ | Mr. Josiah Beaumont. | Mr. John David. | Mr. Samuel Whiteway. |
| " Theobald Allen. | " David Shrimpton. | " Andrew Bonovrier. | " Edward Townsend. |
| Capt. Michael Margetts. | " Henry Coulthurst. | " Jos. Stanfield. | " John Annis. |
| Mr. William Stretton. | " Walter Lee. ⁸ | " Samuel Stretton. | " John Lewis Paulhin. |
| " Edward Baker. | " Moses Motteux. | " William Stanton. ⁹ | " Thomas Scott. ¹¹ |
| " Samuel Worrall. | " Jonas Winthorp. | " James Crofts. | " Richard Bowles. |
| " Thomas Johnson. | " William Cooper. | " John Bell. | " Alex ^d Routhead. ¹² |
| " Richard Flower. ⁷ | " Fran Vionja. | " Gerard Swartz. ¹⁰ | " Joshua Fletcher. ¹³ |
| " Mr. James Mazell. | " Richard Charlton. | " Thomas Walker. | " Richard Booker. |
| " John Dumaistre. | " William Trynmer. | " William Lesow. | " John Gresham. |
| " Richard Owen. | " Robert Evance. | " Andrew Jelfs. | " William Lesson. ¹⁴ |

A LIST OF REGULARLY CONSTITUTED LODGES OF FREEMASONS TO WHICH THE ABOVE NOTED MEMBERS OF THE
COMPANY WERE ALSO ATTACHED :—

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | A Member of the Lodge held at | The Crown Tavern, behind the Royal Exchange. |
| 2 | " | " |
| 3 | " | " |
| 4 | " | " |
| 5 | " | " |
| 6 | " | " |
| 7 | " | " |
| 8 | " | " |
| 9 | " | " |
| 10 | " | " |
| 11 | " | " |
| 12 | " | " |
| 13 | " | " |
| 14 | " | " |

The Vine Tavern, Holborn.

The Crown Tavern, behind the Royal Exchange.



1764. THE NAMES OF THE MASTER, WARDENS, AND COURT OF ASSISTANTS,
TOGETHER WITH THE LIVERYMEN OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF MASONS FOR THE YEAR 1764.

| Name. | Occupation and Address. | Name. | Occupation and Address. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Mr. Richards, <i>Master</i> | Mason, Norton Folgate. | Mr. Dellar | Mason, Kingsland Road. |
| " Steemson, <i>Upper</i> | | " Feverall | Wharehouseman, Walbrooke. |
| " <i>Warden</i> | Carpenter, Whitecross Street. | " Devall | Mason, near Oxford Market. |
| " Annis, <i>Renter Warden</i> | Mason, Aldersgate Street. | " Carr | Mercer, Ludgate Hill. |
| " Townsend | | " Kenleside | Mason, Bridge Yard. |
| " Worrall | Carpenter, Spittlefields. | " Mercer | Mason, near Cavendish Square. |
| " Lee | Mason, near Oxford Chapple. | " Gainsborough | Haberdasher, Lawrence Lane. |
| " Bowles | Mason, near Shoreditch Church. | " Croucher | Abroad. |
| " Anderson | Mason, Chelsea. | " Tovey | Mason, Pancras Lane. |
| " Deputy Easton | Mason, Eastcheap. | " Bigg | Mercer, Ludgate Hill. |
| " Rouchhead | Mason, Oxford Row. | " Stevens | Baker, Fore Street. |
| " Clavey | Linen Draper, Newgate Street. | " Mallcot | Mason, Whitefriars. |
| " Walker | Mason, Queen Street, Cheap-side. | " Waites | Mason, Southwark. |
| | | " Dueffell | Mason, Basing Lane. |
| | | " Ralph Hotchkin | Linen Draper, Smithfield. |

THE LIVERY.

| Name. | Occupation and Address. | Name. | Occupation and Address. |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Mr. John Lewis Paulhan, | Sugar Baker, Bow Lane. | Mr. James Wardell | Coal Merchant, Bow Lane. |
| " Thomas Ludford | " " Westminster. | " Thomas Gaffer | Westminster. |
| " Samuel Holland | " " Hoxton. | " Henry Russell | Painter, Oxford Road. |
| " John Furley | " " Norton Folgate. | " James Long | Mason, Ratcliff Highway. |
| " William Howard | Mason, Saffron Hill. | " William Cope | Mason, Finch Lane. |
| " Robert Taylor | Mason, Charing Cross. | " William Winchester | Mason, Holborn. |
| " Henry Wheeler | Mason, Finch Lane. | " William Telfe | Westminster. |
| " Lucas Shrimpton | Exchange Broker. | " John Scott | Surveyor, St. Andrew's Lane. |
| " John Ferguson | 3, Kings Minories. | " Richard Tunks | Billingsgate. |
| " Richard Hayward | Mason, Piccadilly. | " Thomas Stevens | Mason, Long Acre. |
| " Thomas Green | Distiller, Southwark. | " Joseph Dixon | Mason, St. Alban's Street. |
| " Benjamin Pickersgill | Mason, Vauxhall. | " William Gates | Mason, Thames Street. |
| " William Barlow | Mason, near Grosvenor Square. | " Henry Stanton | Mason, Bloomsbury. |
| " Andrew Vaughan | Silver Smith, Foster Lane. | " John Wynne | Mason, Cripplegate. |
| " Howard Channing | Haberdasher, Bread Street. | " James Moorhouse | |
| " John Richards | At his father's, Norton Folgate. | " John Walter | Coal Merchant, Fenchurch Street. |
| " Michael Babb | Carpenter, Moor Fields. | " Thomas Beard | Mason, Shoe Lane. |
| " John Marks | | " John Hockley | Mason, Old Broad Street. |
| " Thomas Evans | Coxe's Wharf, Southwark. | " Richard Buddle | Mason, Norfolk Street, Strand. |
| " John Rawlinson | Linen Draper, Newgate Street. | " Thomas Burnell | Mason, at his father's in Fleet Street. |
| " Henry Gregory | Mathematical Instrument Maker, Leadenhall Street. | " John Jackson | Foreman to Mr. Steemson. |
| " James Marks | Stationer, St. Martin's Lane. | " Archibald Panthan | Philpot Lane. |
| " Samuel Dunnage | Ribbon Weaver, Spittlefields. | " John Horobin | Mason, The Minories. |
| " John Steemson | At his father's. | " John Biggs | Mercer, Ludgate Hill. |
| | | " Richard Jones | Mason, Mark Lane. |

1822. THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS IN THE YEAR 1822.

Mr. Robert Shout, *Master*.
 Mr. George Parminter, *Upper Warden*. Mr. Richard Heale, *Renter Warden*.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mr. Thomas Burnell, sen. | Mr. George Gwilt. | Mr. John Barlow. |
| „ Samuel Ireland. | „ William Cadogan. | „ Charles Edward Salmon. |
| „ George Whitlock. | „ John Paulin. | „ William Vere. |
| „ Thomas Burnell, jun. | „ John Harkness. | „ Charles Stowers. |
| „ John Green. | „ John Moginie. | „ James Davies, |
| „ John Peter Holloway. | „ Martin Stukeley. | „ James Adey. |
| „ Benjamin Marshall. | „ Clayton Storey. | „ William Freeman, jun. |
| „ John Malcott. | „ John Rowden. | „ Francis Willett. |
| „ John Richards. | „ James Rossiter. | „ Robert Robinson. |
| „ John Cadogan. | „ David Moffat (<i>Beadle</i>). | „ Charles Lutwyche Shout. |
| „ Thomas Piper. | „ Thomas Harrison. | „ James Milnes. |
| „ Thomas Grundy. | „ George Goring. | „ Richard Wilford. |
| „ William Archer Dixon. | „ George Cook. | „ Richard Samthill. |
| „ Henry Burnell. | „ John Howson. | |

1894. THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS IN THE YEAR 1894.

Mr. Edward Conder, jun., *Master*.
 Mr. Henry Logsdaile Sarson, *Upper Warden*. Mr. Frederick Toulmin Shadbolt, *Renter Warden*.

THE ASSISTANTS.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Mr. Henry Hockey Burnell, F.S.A. | <i>Past Master</i> . | Mr. Charles Smith. |
| „ Edward Conder | <i>Past Master</i> . | Dr. Edwin Freshfield, F.S.A. |
| „ John Hunter | <i>Past Master</i> . | Mr. Frederick John Cox. |
| „ Henry Sarson | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ Thomas Skinner Peet. |
| „ Russell Selby Freeman | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ Herbert John Moore. |
| „ Mr. John Greenwood | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ Henry Wells Dewhurst Theobald. |
| „ Edward Hodson Bayley, M.P. | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ George Pocock. |
| „ Edward Cozens Smith. | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ John Richard Histed. |
| „ Henry Benson James | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ Percy Peet. |
| „ Thomas Wigglesworth | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ Jonathan Sargeant Stacy. |
| „ Edward Spencer Stidolph | <i>Past Master</i> . | „ William Clarke. |
| „ Leonard James Williams | <i>Past Master</i> . | |

THE LIVERY.

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Edward Cadogan. | Mr. James Wilson Halsey. | Mr. Frederick George Dray. |
| General James Warwick Wool- | „ Richard Conder. | „ George Cartwright. |
| dridge. | „ William Henry Gibbs. | „ William Harry Rylands, |
| Mr. James Lyster O'Beirne. | „ Percy Stanley Sarson. | „ F.S.A. |
| „ John Clowes Bayley. | „ Arthur William Donne. | „ Alfred Lister Blow. |
| Sir Edward James Reed, K.C.B., | „ Arthur Fuller James. | |
| M.P. | | |

CLERKS.

A LIST OF THOSE GENTLEMEN WHO HAVE FILLED THE OFFICE OF CLERK TO
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF MASONS.

| | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Thomas Paskins | 16— to 1625 | David le Gros | 1708 to 1720 |
| Edmond Robarts | 1625 to 1638 | Miles Mann | 1720 to 1738 |
| Edmond Hamlet | 1638 to 1639 | Edward Grose | 1738 to 1741 |
| John Pickering | 1639 to 1660 | Richard Newton ¹ | 1741 to 1770 |
| William Brome, sen. | 1660 to 1671 | Joseph Newton | 1770 to 1796 |
| William Brome, jun. | 1671 to 1677 | John Aldridge | 1796 to 1839 |
| William Hamond | 1677 to 1678 | Frederick Gwatkin | 1839 to 1872 |
| Samuel Draper | 1678 to 1681 | John Hunter | 1872 to 1881 |
| Thomas Stampe | 1681 to 1695 | Arthur John Campbell Gwatkin | 1881 to 1886 |
| Laurence Purchase | 1695 to 1708 | Robert L. Hunter | 1886 |

¹ Mr. Richard Newton, a solicitor, was succeeded by his partner, Mr. Joseph Newton, who was in his turn succeeded by his partner, Mr. Aldridge, who again was followed by his partner, Mr. Gwatkin, who in his turn retired in favour of his partner, Mr. Hunter, who in a like manner was followed by his partner, Mr. Gwatkin, who retired in 1886, when Mr. R. L. Hunter succeeded him. The clerkship of the Company having thus continued in the hands of one firm of solicitors from 1741 to 1894.

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